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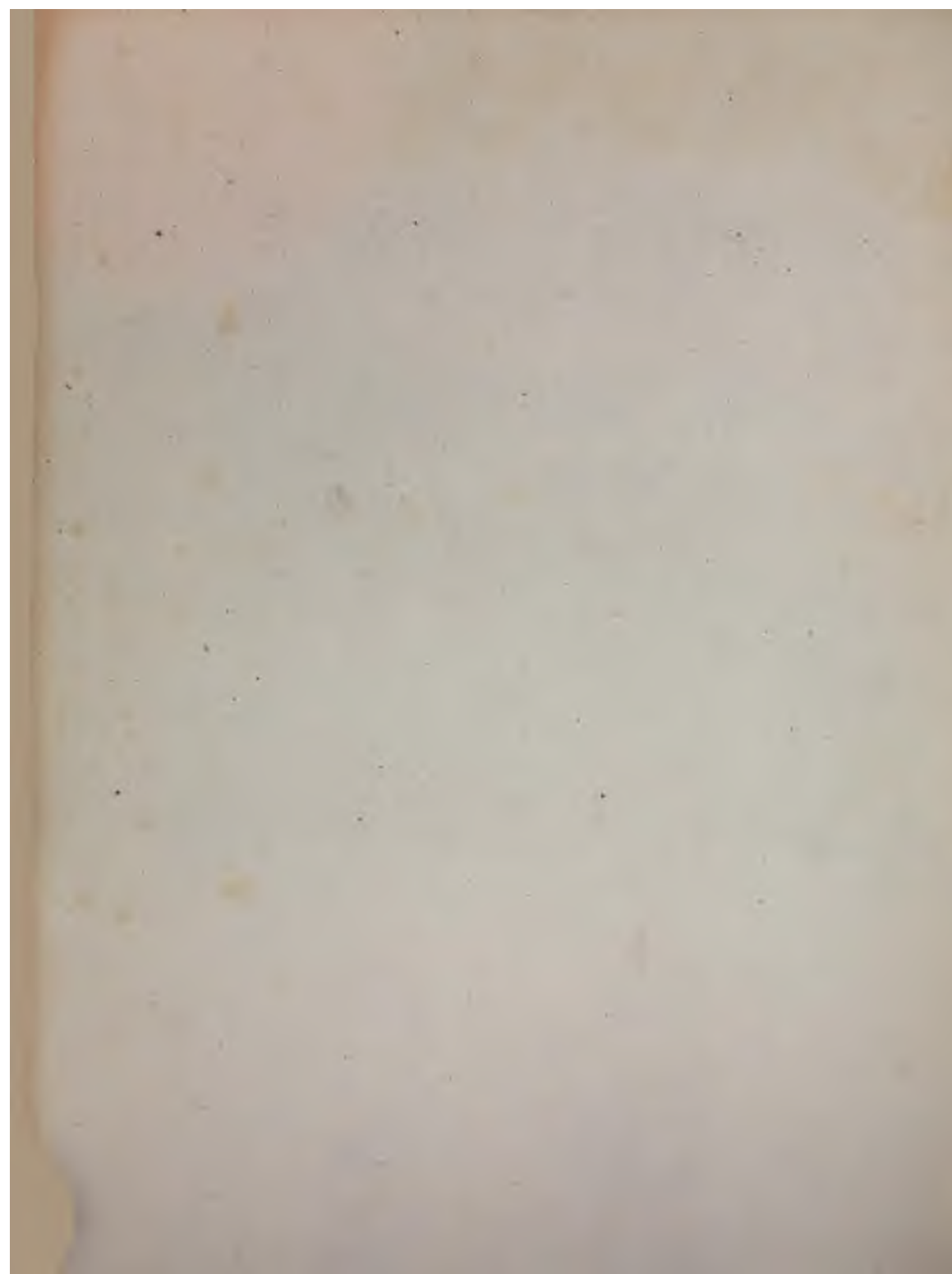
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LETTERS

ADDRESSED FROM LONDON

TO

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON

WHILE

PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE CONGRESS OF COLOGNE

IN THE YEARS 1673 AND 1674.

EDITED BY W. D. CHRISTIE, C.B.,

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE OF THE FIRST EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY

M.DCCC.LXXIV.

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WESTMINSTER:
PRINTED BY J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS,
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199401

[NEW SERIES VIII.]

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THE JOY OF LIVING

by HENRY J. WATSON

THE JOY OF LIVING is a book that will help you to find the joy of living in the present moment. It is a book that will help you to find the joy of living in the present moment. It is a book that will help you to find the joy of living in the present moment.

INTRODUCTION.

WAR was proclaimed by England and by France, acting in alliance, against Holland, in March 1672. This was England's second Dutch war of the reign of Charles the Second. It was preluded by long negotiations with France, and by three successive treaties, showing to us who know all the particulars, which at the time were mystified and concealed, the immorality and wickedness of English government at that period. A secret treaty had been concluded at Dover on June 1, 1670, signed by M. Colbert, the French Ambassador, on the part of France, and by Lord Arlington, Secretary of State, Sir Thomas Clifford, Comptroller of the Household and Commissioner of the Treasury, and Lord Arundel of Wardour and Sir Richard Bellings, two unofficial Roman Catholics, on the part of England. That secret treaty engaged Charles the Second to declare himself a Roman Catholic, for which Louis XIV. was to pay him two millions of francs, and, in the event of anticipated disturbances in England, to provide him with the aid of six thousand foot soldiers, raised and maintained at the expense of Louis. The two Kings agreed to make war together with all their forces against Holland, and neither was to make a treaty of peace, truce, or armistice without the other's consent. The time for declaring war was to be left to Louis. After Charles had publicly declared his change of religion Louis was to undertake the war by land; Charles sending and maintaining six thousand men, commanded by a general who should obey Louis or his Commander

in Chief. Charles undertook the burden of the war by sea, Louis sending thirty ships of war and ten fire-ships, and maintaining them at his expense. The English fleet was to consist of at least fifty large ships and ten fire-ships; the French auxiliary squadron to be commanded by a Vice-Admiral or Lieutenant-General, who would obey the Duke of York in virtue of powers given him by the two Kings, each for his own ships. Louis was to pay Charles three millions of francs a-year while the war lasted. As to conquests, England's portion was to be the islands of Walcheren and Cadsand and the port of L'Ecluse. This secret treaty was ratified by the two Kings on the 14th of June, 1670, by an interchange of letters mutually addressed by one to the other, and sealed with their respective private seals.¹

The knowledge of this secret treaty was confided only to the Duke of York and to the four signatories, Arlington, Clifford, Lord Arundel of Wardour, and Bellings. Nothing was known of it by other high officers and members of the Cabinet or Cabal, by the Duke of Buckingham who was ostensibly Prime Minister, by Lord Ashley or by Lord Lauderdale, by Sir Orlando Bridgman, the

¹ This secret treaty was first published by Dr. Lingard, in 1830, in his *History of England*, from the papers of Lord Clifford, one of the signatories. An account of it had been published in 1682, by the Abbé Primi, in Italian and French, at the instigation of Louis XIV. but the Abbé's book was immediately suppressed on strong representations from the English government. The substance of Primi's statements was published in England immediately after the Revolution. Hume, who published his volumes of Charles II.'s reign in 1756, made no allusion to Primi's book or the secret treaty. Bishop Burnet refers to the Abbé Primi's book (*Own Time*, i. 503), and so does Edmund Calamy in his *Autobiography*, written before 1731 (*Life and Times*, i. 69). Calamy, in the same passage, mentions a sermon of Archbishop King, preached in Dublin in 1691, in which he gives an account of the treaty, derived from a paper found in Lord Tyrconnel's closet. Lord Tyrconnel at the time of the treaty was Colonel Richard Talbot, a favourite of the Duke of York.

Lord Keeper, or by Sir John Trevor, Arlington's colleague as Secretary of State. It was judged necessary to prepare a second treaty for publication, in which nothing should be said of the King's professing the Roman Catholic religion; and for this second treaty the aid of Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale was procured, Buckingham to be the chief negotiator, and all three to be kept in ignorance of the existence of the secret treaty. The Protestant feelings of Ashley and Lauderdale were feared by the secret conspirators, and the secret was kept from Buckingham, not from fear of his principles, but from fear that he would chatter and betray the secret. The wiles and artifices employed by the secret conspirators to delude Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale, during negotiations which were prolonged for six months, are a marvellous and disgraceful episode of English history. On the last day of the year a second treaty was signed, again by Colbert for France, and for England by Buckingham, Arlington, Lauderdale, Ashley, and Clifford.¹ This new treaty, intended for publication, represented the two millions of francs, which by the secret treaty were to be given to Charles for declaring himself a Roman Catholic, as an addition to the first year's French subsidy of three millions; and nothing was said in it of French aid to subdue rebellion in England. Louis had vainly endeavoured to obtain Charles's consent to a secret engagement to be entered into by the Commissioners who had signed the secret treaty on June 1, that the present treaty for publication should be held null and void, except where it differed from the secret treaty. When the treaty was signed, Charles signed a declaration that the two

¹ This second treaty is called *traité simulé* in the French documents. See Dalrymple's *Memoirs*, and Mignet, *Négociations relatives à la Succession d'Espagne*.

millions of francs which he was to receive in two instalments, and were represented as for preparations for war, in addition to the first year's subsidy of three millions, were really given him in view of his declaring himself a Roman Catholic, as had been agreed by the secret treaty.

There had been many changes of sentiment and much negotiation, disingenuous on both sides, as to when Charles should make his declaration of the Roman Catholic religion. Louis had in the first instance wished Charles to postpone the declaration until after the declaration of war, and Charles in the first instance had been loth to postpone it. At that time Louis wished to begin the war in the spring of 1671. Charles, daunted by the difficulties which he thought might follow the announcement of his change of religion, became willing to postpone it, but doubted his being able to be ready so soon for war. Then Louis changed his mind, and wished the declaration of war to be postponed for a year. But he instructed Colbert not to inform Charles of his wish for postponement; he was to let delay come, as Louis then felt sure that it would come, from Charles. Strange to say, Charles was now eager to begin war in the spring of 1671. Later, Charles agreed to the postponement. This agreed upon, Louis made an attempt to postpone the payment of the sum which he had promised in consideration of Charles's promised declaration of the Roman Catholic religion, and made another attempt to induce Charles to fix the time for this declaration. Charles resisted these two attempts, and they were abandoned. The treaty, concluded on December 31, fixed April or May, 1672, as the time for beginning war. The time of Charles's declaring the Roman Catholic religion was not fixed, and this part of the conspiracy between the two Kings never came to pass.

War was ultimately declared by both nations against Holland in March 1672. By that time Louis had paid to Charles the two millions of francs, which was really the price for his promised declaration of the Roman Catholic religion; and Louis had also paid, in the end of January 1672, before the war began, the first quarterly instalment of the promised annual subsidy of three million francs. Charles had in the meantime been released by Louis from the obligation of providing his promised auxiliary land force of six thousand men during the first year of the war.

Shortly before war was declared, the treaty of December 31, 1670, was replaced by a substantially similar treaty, signed on the 2nd of February, 1672, by the same Commissioners as before, Colbert for France, and Buckingham, Lauderdale, Arlington, Ashley, and Clifford, for England. The object of making this new treaty was apparently no other than to prevent those to whom the facts would now have to be disclosed from knowing how long the treaty had been in existence.

The initials of the five ministers who signed the treaties of December 31, 1670, and February 2, 1672, made the name *Cabal*. A remarkable and obnoxious set of acts preceded the beginning of the war; the stop of the Exchequer in January 1672 to obtain the use for the war of one million three hundred thousand pounds deposited on call by the bankers, in reliance on the faith of government; an urgent Declaration of Indulgence to Protestant Dissenters and Roman Catholics, issued in March, in order to promote peace and union within against the Dutch enemy; and on the very eve of the beginning of war an attempt, without proclamation, to seize a rich Dutch merchant fleet on its way home through the Channel, again in order to procure funds for the war. This last attack

excited great disapproval; the odium of it was increased by failure. The stop of the Exchequer, for a sum which would now be a trifle, had caused a panic in the City, deranged trade, and brought great distress on bankers' depositors. The Declaration of Indulgence offended Churchmen and Protestants, and opposition to its substance was swelled by objections to the use of the prerogative superseding legislation. Public opinion visited on all the five ministers, and on none others, the blame of all these acts. The Cabal was the one great sinner. This was a nickname given to the five ministers; and history has formally endorsed the nickname. "The war," says Sir William Temple, "had been begun and carried on as far as it would go, under the ministry of five men, who were usually called the *Cabal*, a word unluckily falling out of the five first letters of these names, that is: Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale."¹

But these were not the only cabinet ministers of that time. First of all there was the Duke of York, the Lord High Admiral, foremost for the French alliance and the Dutch war, and eager supporter of all subsidiary measures. The Lord Keeper, Sir Orlando Bridgman, was another member of the cabinet not in the secret, any more than Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale, as to the intention of declaring the Roman Catholic religion, but necessarily aware, before the war began, of all the rest of the French policy, and putting the seal, after some objections, to the Declaration of Indulgence. Prince Rupert was a member of the Cabinet; his sentiments were stoutly Protestant and anti-French. Sir John Trevor, the second Secretary of State, by right a member of the

¹ Temple's Memoirs, from 1672 to 1679, in Works, vol. ii. p. 255, 4 vols. 8vo. 1614.

cabinet, died in May 1672, and was succeeded in July by Henry Coventry, a brother-in-law of Ashley. It is a mistake to suppose that the cabinet ministers at the beginning of the Dutch war were only five.

Nor were the five so united as the name *Cabal* would indicate. Arlington and Clifford were separated from the three others by the secret of the Roman Catholic religion. Those two and the rest of the ministers joined in supporting the Declaration of Indulgence from different points of view ; their object was to favour the Roman Catholics, that of the rest to relieve Protestant Dissenters. Ashley vehemently opposed in the cabinet the stop of the Exchequer, which was vehemently promoted by Clifford.

High honours conferred by the King, soon after the beginning of the war, on four of the five whose names made *Cabal* contributed to marking them out prominently, and fixing them with chief responsibility. The King had different motives in honouring them. Arlington, who was promoted to be an Earl, and Clifford, who was made Baron Clifford of Chudleigh, were rewarded for secret fidelity; Ashley, who was raised to be Earl of Shaftesbury, and Lauderdale, who from an Earl was made a Duke in the Scotch peerage, were gratified with the hope of gaining more zealous and complete service in the cause of Roman Catholic communion with France. These honours were conferred in April 1672; Buckingham, already a Duke, was beyond elevation.

Shaftesbury was made Lord Chancellor in November 1672. He had previously refused the appointment of Lord Treasurer. A few days after Shaftesbury became Lord Chancellor, Lord Clifford was made Lord Treasurer.

The war began at sea with a hard-fought battle off the English

coast, near Southwold Bay, in which, on the side of England and France, the English fleet, commanded by the Duke of York, bore the brunt of the Dutch attack during two days, the 30th and the 31st of May, and which ended without decisive victory on either side. By land Louis XIV. quickly achieved great results. He invaded Holland, became master of three of the seven provinces, and having taken Arnheim, Naerden, Utrecht, Daventer, Zutphen, and Nimeguen, now threatened Amsterdam. Ruin seemed imminent for the Dutch republic. It was determined at the Hague to send four deputies to England and four to the King of France to make peace. Charles resolved at once to refuse to receive the Dutch envoys, and to declare that he would do nothing but in concert with France. He despatched a very distinguished mission to the King of France, consisting of Buckingham, Arlington, and Lord Halifax, a nephew of Shaftesbury, a man of great promise, afterwards to become celebrated, to enter into concert with him as to the attitude to be taken in reply to the Dutch overtures for peace. The capricious and volatile Buckingham was already urging peace, and a separate arrangement with the Dutch. The King of France had offended him by not procuring for him the command of the promised English auxiliary land-force. Probably for the purpose of keeping him in good humour the Duke of York revealed to Buckingham, as he was on the point of starting on his mission, the great secret of the project of the King's declaration of the Roman Catholic religion. The secret was not told to Halifax. The Duke of Monmouth was afterwards joined with Buckingham, Arlington, and Halifax, as a fourth plenipotentiary; and the four concluded a treaty with Louis at his camp at Heeswick, on July 6, by which the two kings formally renewed the engagements of the treaty of February 2,

binding themselves again "to hearken to no proposition of peace without immediately communicating the same to each other, and not to enter upon any offers separately made to them for their advantage, and to accept of no satisfaction unless the other King be fully content with what is offered him," and promising "to agree together on conditions on which they are willing to make a peace which may be secure and honourable, and that they will not consent to any accommodation with the States-General, unless the said conditions be yielded to them." Louis thus gained his object, and secured the continued concert and fidelity of Charles.¹ The terms of peace agreed upon by Louis and Charles were summarily rejected by Holland, acting by the advice and inspiration of the young Prince of Orange, the future William the Third of England.

And now it became necessary for the English ministry to think of calling Parliament together. The French subsidy of three million francs did not suffice for Charles's wants. Parliament had not sat since April 1671. The treaty with France of December 31, 1670, had then not been made known to Parliament; the Commons had then voted 1,300,000*l.* for payment of debts, and 800,000*l.* to equip a fleet, which the Lord Keeper Bridgman, speaking according to custom for the King, and himself ignorant of the arranged French alliance, had represented as necessary in consequence of the increased navies of France and Holland. The stop of the Exchequer had placed 1,300,000*l.* at the disposal of government in the beginning of January 1672; the money had been taken, six

¹ All the despatches of the ambassadors addressed to Clifford, who acted as Secretary of State in Arlington's absence, are among the papers at Longleat, in possession of the Marquis of Bath; they came there probably through Halifax, who was cousin and intimate friend of Sir Thomas Thynne, afterwards Viscount Weymouth.

per cent. interest being promised to the despoiled bankers; more money was wanted, and the longer a meeting of Parliament was postponed, the more likely dissatisfaction and distrust. The stop of the Exchequer, the Declaration of Indulgence, the attack on the Dutch Smyrna fleet before proclamation of war, the declaration of war without consulting Parliament, the continuance of the war,—these were all sources of danger from Parliament whenever it should meet, and time, unless brilliant success came, would swell the danger. The Parliament had been prorogued on April 22 until the 16th of April following; then it was further prorogued, without meeting, till the end of October. While the English cabinet were thinking of letting Parliament meet on the 30th of October, Louis instructed Colbert, his Ambassador, to represent his desire for a further prorogation till the beginning of 1673. Charles and his cabinet yielded reluctantly to the French king's request. The Duke of York and the Duke of Buckingham were particularly zealous against further prorogation. It was ultimately settled to prorogue from October 30 to February in 1673, and on this day Parliament ultimately assembled.

When Parliament met, an organized opposition of country gentlemen and high-churchmen fell fiercely on the Declaration of Indulgence. Little or nothing was said of the stop of the Exchequer or the attack on the Dutch Smyrna fleet; the war even called forth no censure, and a supply of 1,238,750*l.* was quickly voted for carrying on the war, the sum to be raised in eighteen months by assessment. But for the Declaration of Indulgence there was no quarter. Charles had begun in a very high tone in the speech in which he opened Parliament: "I shall take it very ill," he said, "to receive contradiction in what I have done; and I will deal plainly with

you, I am resolved to stick to my Declaration." After voting the supply for the war, the Commons proceeded to discuss the Declaration, and they resolved, at the end of two long days' debate, by 168 votes to 116, "that penal statutes in matters ecclesiastical cannot be suspended but by act of parliament;" and they voted an address to the King founded on this resolution. It was further resolved not to ask the Lords to join in this address. It was presented to the King at Whitehall on February 19. His Majesty replied at the moment that "it was of importance, and he would take it into consideration." The Commons were impatient for a more distinct answer. Sir John Hotham, member for Hull, moved on February 22 for "a desire to his Majesty for a speedy answer to the last address of the House." There was a long debate on that day, which was adjourned to the 25th. The day before the intended resumption of the debate the King sent an answer by Henry Coventry, Secretary of State, asserting his right of suspending laws in matters ecclesiastical, but adding his readiness to entertain any bill which might be offered to him for attaining the ends which he had in view. The Commons were not satisfied, and insisted on a full and satisfactory answer on the question of right, and on effectual measures for preventing the Declaration from being "drawn into consequence or example." The King then appealed to the Lords for support. The Lords, having consulted the judges, made an evasive reply, approving of the King's answer to the House of Commons referring the matter to settlement by parliamentary bill. After this the Declaration was given up. It was a painful decision for the King to come to, and he did not come to it without a struggle. The Duke of York, Clifford, and Buckingham to the last counselled perseverance. The Duke of Buckingham and Lord Berkeley of Stratton, an old general of the Civil War, were ready to call up an army to support the King in

resistance.¹ But cooler counsels prevailed. Shaftesbury, who had zealously supported the Declaration, was convinced by the answer of the Lords that it could not be pursued further. Arlington was frightened. When the crisis of a conflict between the King and the Commons seemed approaching, no one was more alarmed than Colbert, the French Ambassador, who urgently invoked the interference of Louis XIV. and, representing to Charles the desire of Louis that the Declaration of Indulgence should be cancelled, decided the wavering mind of Charles. Shaftesbury, as Chancellor, announced in the Lords, on the seventh of March, that the King had cancelled the declaration. On the tenth Colbert wrote to the French Foreign Office: "We are now extricated from a very perilous measure, and the King of England will in a short while be able to make his enemies tremble. The promptitude with which his Majesty (Louis XIV.) has made his sentiments known to me has not a little contributed to this result, and I cannot refrain from saying in the words of Cicero to Brutus '*Non ignoras quanta momenta sint in republica temporum et quid intersit idem illud, utrum ante post decernatur, suscipiatur, agatur.*'"²

The parliamentary opposition had obtained a great victory in the cancelling of the Declaration of Indulgence; they obtained another by passing an Act "for preventing dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants, and quieting the minds of his Majesty's good subjects," which required all persons who held any civil or military office, or were in receipt of any emolument by the King's patent or grant, or held any command or place of trust under the King or in the name of the Duke of York, to take, before the 1st of August, the oaths of supremacy and allegiance, and receive the sacrament

¹ Burnet's Own Time, i. 348.

² From the archives of the French Foreign Office quoted in my "Life of Shaftesbury," vol. II. p. 135.

according to the rites of the Church of England, and make the following declaration:—"I do believe that there is not any transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or in the elements of bread and wine, at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever;" forfeiture of office, with disability to hold any other public office, being the penalty of refusal or neglect. This bill had been warmly supported by Shaftesbury; it had been also supported quietly by Arlington, who was now thoroughly frightened by the national dread of Popery, and was believed to have revealed to Shaftesbury the secret of the King's engagements with France as to the Roman Catholic religion.¹

The withdrawal of the Declaration of Indulgence and the passing of the Test Act put the Commons into good humour, and arrangements for completion of the supply of 1,238,750*l.*, which had been promised at the beginning of the Session, were concluded without difficulty before the adjournment of Parliament on March 26th. Parliament had sat seven weeks, and had done much in that short time. It was adjourned to the 20th of October.

In the spring of this year the mediation of Sweden was accepted by the belligerents, and a Congress met at Cologne. The Earl of Sunderland, Sir Leoline Jenkins, and Sir Joseph Williamson were appointed plenipotentiaries from England to this Congress. Sunderland was at the time of this appointment in Paris, where he had held the post of Ambassador, and he never proceeded to Cologne.

¹ Colbert wrote, November 20, 1673, to his government that St. Evremont, who had good opportunities of information, had told him that Arlington was a secret promoter of the Test Act, and that he was himself inclined to believe this. Colbert adds, "I have even reason to give some faith to what St. Evremont tells me, that Arlington has co-operated with the Chancellor for the new oath, knowing well that Lord Clifford could not take it." (Mignet, iv. 236. Dalrymple, ii. 90.)

Jenkins and Williamson left England on the 17th of May, and arrived at Cologne on the 3rd of June. They quitted Cologne, a separate peace between England and Holland having been suddenly made not there by them but in England, on the 15th of April in the following year 1674. The whole course of the troublesome negotiations at Cologne is detailed in the despatches of Jenkins and Williamson, printed in Wynne's *Life of Sir Leoline Jenkins*, (volume i. folio 1724).

These volumes contain a series of letters of gossip of all sorts, written to Williamson from London during his absence at Cologne, from his dependents and friends in the Secretary of State's office and friends in the House of Commons and City. He was Under-Secretary of State under Lord Arlington, when appointed plenipotentiary at Cologne. He was a member of the City Clothworkers' Company. He had many intimate parliamentary friends among royalist churchmen, and it will be seen that most of his parliamentary intimates appeared later in Andrew Marvel's *Black List of Government Pensioners*, printed in Holland in 1677.

It is proper to give here some particulars of Sir Joseph Williamson's history and career. He was son of a Cumberland clergyman. When a boy he acted as Secretary to a Mr. Richard Tilson, M.P. for Cumberland, who recommended him to Dr. Bushby, the master of Westminster, who took him into that school for education. Greatly struck by the youth's cleverness, Bushby recommended him to Dr. Langbaine, the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, who admitted him to the foundation of the college, and paid the expenses of his education there. After taking his B.A. degree, he went into France as a tutor to a person of quality. On returning from his tutorial tour he became a Fellow of Queen's College, and

obtained his M.A. degree in 1657. Soon after the Restoration he quitted Oxford for political life, and was made Secretary of Sir Edward Nicholas, one of the Secretaries of State. Arlington succeeded Nicholas in October 1662, and Williamson was passed on to Arlington as Secretary. He had received from Nicholas the appointment of Keeper of the Paper Office, at Whitehall. In 1665 Arlington raised him to the office of Under-Secretary of State. In 1667 he was made one of the Clerks of Council in Ordinary, and received the honour of knighthood. He was thus an important pillar of the State when in 1673 he was named one of three plenipotentiaries to the Congress of Cologne. On his return from this mission he was appointed, in June 1674, Secretary of State in succession to Arlington, who was then made Lord Chamberlain. He held this high post until February 1679, when he was succeeded by the Earl of Sunderland.

In 1682 Williamson married a lady of high rank, with whom he had long been on terms of the greatest intimacy; this was Lady Catharine O'Brien, who had been the wife of Lord O'Brien, eldest son of the Earl of Thomond. Lord O'Brien had perished in May 1682, in the shipwreck in Yarmouth Roads of the Gloucester frigate, which was carrying the Duke of York to Scotland. "Sir Joseph," says Evelyn, "was a musician, could play at *jeu du goblets*, exceeding proud, a severe master to his servants, but so inward with my Lord O'Brien that after a few months of that gentleman's death he married his widow, who, being sister and heir of the Duke of Richmond, brought him a noble fortune. It was thought they lived not so kindly after marriage as they did before. She was much censured for marrying so meanly, being herself allied to the royal family."¹ This lady was born a Stuart, and was sister and heiress of Charles

¹ Evelyn's Diary, July 22, 1674.

Stuart, Duke of Richmond, who died Ambassador in Denmark in December 1672. Her great intimacy with Williamson is shown in the following correspondence. None of her frequent letters to him found their way into the State Paper Office with those of his gentlemen correspondents.

Williamson was President of the Royal Society in 1678. He died in 1702. He left 6,000*l.* and a valuable collection of heraldic manuscripts and of memoirs relating to his own negotiations to the college where he had been educated, Queen's College, Oxford. He also left 5,000*l.* for the purpose of founding a mathematical school at Rochester, by which city he had been several times returned to Parliament. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Williamson's rise from a college tutorship to the office of Secretary of State was remarkable, and a proof of perseverance and practical abilities. He was a pliant courtier and model official. He had genial qualities by which he made and kept many useful friends.

The following letters, ranging from May 1673 to March 1674, comprise a period of great political interest, including the retirement of the Duke of York and Lord Clifford from the Cabal Ministry by the operation of the Test Act, the beginning of Lord Danby's power, the dismissal of Shaftesbury from the Chancellorship, the beginning of an organized opposition to the Government, having its chief seat in the House of Lords, and directed by Shaftesbury, Holles, Halifax, and Carlisle, and the sudden termination of the Dutch war.

I have printed in an Appendix an interesting paper from the State Paper Office giving an account of the way in which the Paper Office, of which Sir Joseph Williamson was keeper, and the Gazette, were managed in 1674 under his superintendence.

W. D. CHRISTIE.

November 1873.

LETTERS

ADDRESSED TO

SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

NO. 1.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, May 18, 1673.

I writt to your Ex^{cy} by James with the wine, as also on Fryday and Satturday night,¹ but I feare all of them mist your Ex^{cy}, for last night James returned with the things, which wee lodged at my Lady O'Bryan's,² as your Ex^{cy} ordered. Wee with much adoe gott the watermen to take but 50 s. in all, the bargain to carry them downe being 35 s. My Lady was much troubled they came not time enough; she is sensible how streightened your Ex^{cy} must needs be for provisions in so bad a place;³ her Ladyship writt both times under my cover to your Ex^{cy}, but last night's letters were not sent by reason of your departure, which Mr. Yard⁴ sends therefore now.

¹ May 16 and 17. The day on which this letter is dated, the 18th, was Whit Sunday. The dates of these letters are new style.

² Lady Catharine O'Brien, born Lady Catharine Stuart, sister of Charles Stuart Duke of Richmond, who died, ambassador in Denmark, December 1672. Her husband was Henry Lord O'Brien, eldest son of the Earl of Thomond. Lord O'Brien perished in the shipwreck, in Yarmouth Roads, of the Gloucester frigate, carrying the Duke of York to Edinburgh, in 1682. Lady Catharine afterwards married Williamson: their intimacy is apparent in this correspondence. Evelyn drily says, "It was thought they lived not so kindly after marriage as they did before; she was much censured for marrying so meanly, being herself allied to the royal family." Lord O'Brien is thus described in the List of Court Members of the Long Parliament of Charles II., ascribed to Andrew Marvell, and printed in 1677: "By his wife's interest has got of Secretary Williamson¹ 1,500*l*. [query, 15,000*l*.], the reversion of Cobham Park, and other estates that were in the Crown, worth 13,000*l*. per annum; his son married the Treasurer's [Danby's] daughter."

³ The ambassadors had been detained at Sheerness for ten days by contrary winds.

⁴ Robert Yard, a clerk in the Secretary of State's office, became Under-Secretary in 1699.

My Lord Treasurer¹ did not receive the Sacrament this day as it was talked, his Lordship falling yesterday somewhat ill, which the people will have to be on purpose, and nominate Sir Thomas Osborne for his successor. I name not this as anything but the humours of the comonalty. His Majesty will (Mr. Cranefeldt tells me) returne to-morrow night or Tuesday morning.

All things at your Ex^{ty} house are in good order, as are all your Ex^{ty} concerns in my care, so that I have only to add that I humbly begg your Ex^{ty} would beleive its my whole indeavor as well as duty to performe exactly your commands, and to obey in all things your Ex^{ty}, in which I shall ever continue to be,

May it please your Ex^{ty},

Your Ex^{ty} most humble and faithfull servant,

HENRY BALL.

My Lord Treasurer was at the Meeting this evening,² so that his illness was a mistake of the people in St. Martin's Church this day.

R 19 at Dover.

NO. 2.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Ex^{ty},

Whitehall, May 19, 1673.

Last night I presumed to present your Ex^{ty} with my most humble service with what then occurred. This day no letters besides the inland are come hither, the extract of which Mr. Yard takes care to send. This morning came an express from his Majestyes fleete to Sir Robert Carr,³ and this day, about 2, his

¹ Lord Clifford. There was now great expectation and wonderment as to whether the would or would not publicly take the sacrament, and, by complying with the other provisions of the Test Act passed in the last session, enable himself to retain his office. He resigned on June 29.

² The meeting of the Cabinet Council or Cabal.

³ Sir Robert Carr, Bart. of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and M.P. for Lincolnshire, was brother-in-law of the Earl of Arlington. He probably assisted Arlington as Secretary of State. He was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, appointed February 14,

Majesty and Royall Highness returned themselves, and were this night at the office.

They say here Collonell Russell¹ has sent for his things againe from sea, being resolved not to goe, so that Sir Thomas Morgan² its said shall succeed as Major Generall.

On Saturday last four high-way men were brought into Newgate, having been taken at Mims, neare Barnett, by the countrey people ; one of their names is Fox, formerly a page to a lord ; one of the company was killed upon the place, whose name was Doughty, whither he that killed Mr. Peyte or no I know not, but by his desperateness in refusing to yeild, saying he had already done enough to be hanged, its thought it may be the same.

I most humbly beg your Ex^{cy}s pardon for this presumption, and with the greatest humility and respect imaginable subscribe my selfe,

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Your Ex^{cy}s most humble and obedient servant,

R 25.

HENRY BALL.

NO. 3 —FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, 23 May, 1673.

The last I had the honor to receive from your Ex^{cy} was dated on Monday last³ at Dover ; I shall not faile to give all due observance to what your Ex^{cy} is pleased to command me in it.

1672. In the list of Court members, ascribed to Andrew Marvell, printed in 1677, he is accused of bigamy : "20,000*l.* in boons, Chancellor of the Duchy ; two wives living at this time, one Arlington's sister." He was much addicted to the turf.

¹ John Russell, youngest son of the fourth Earl of Bedford, and uncle of the famous William Lord Russell. He had been Colonel in the Civil Wars for Charles I., and, after the Restoration, was made by Charles II. Colonel of the First Regiment of Foot Guards.

² Sir Thomas Morgan, an old general of the Commonwealth and Protectorate. He commanded Cromwell's expedition to Dunkirk in 1657 to assist the French against the Spaniards. When Monk marched from Scotland to London to effect the Restoration, he left Morgan behind him in chief command in Scotland. He was a very small man, of effeminate voice and appearance. Aubrey gives a funny account of his size and manners. (Letters from the Bodleian, &c., ii. 465.)

³ May 19.

Wee have little to communicate to your Ex^{ty} from hence, for all forreigne news your Ex^{ty} will receive much fresher from other hands then it can come from us, and besides the last French post brought not in one letter directed to your Ex^{ty}.

I have presumed to call upon Mr. Perwich to continue his correspondence durement your Ex^{cies} absence in the same manner he did before; for the rest of the correspondents they are as yet pretty punctuall with us.

Wee talke much here of the army which is with all speed to be transported for Holland; certaine it is the generall rendezvous is appointed to be the 10 or 12 of the next month upon Blackheath, and that severall vessells are hired for their transportation, and yesterday were pressed above 100 lighters.

Collonell Russell seems dissatisfied at the Duke of Bucks being preferred before him, and it is said that he will not onely not accept of the command of Major-Generall but lay downe that of Collonell to the King's Regiment, though his friends hope he will be better advised. The people about towne entertaine themselves with a story concerneing my Lord Treasurer being overthrowne in his coach as he was comeing privately from Somersett House with Father Patricke on Whit Sunday eve,¹ while at his house it was given out that his Lordshipp was private and would not be spoke with by anybody that afternoone. And now all the discourse is concerneing his successor; many think Sir Thomas Osborne will be the man, though some speak of Commissioners, and, amongst others, name Sir Robert Carr for one.

This day at Councell was onely heard the cause between Mr. Gold and Mr. Sidney at Leghorne; after much contest both parties submitted the businessse to arbitrators.

I have not to this day been able to get any of the East India papers out of Sir Samuel Moreland's² hands, though Mr. Shelden has often called upon me; he putts me of from day to day, of which

¹ Saturday, May 17.

² Sir S. Morland, the great inventor, who had been employed under Cromwell in Thurloe the Secretary's office, and was rewarded by Charles II. for having betrayed

I cannot imagine the reason, unlesse he scrupule to trust me with them.

I humbly commend myselfe to your Ex^{cies} favour and protection, who am, with all duty and devotion,

My Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull, humble, and obedient servant,

R. YARD.

Acknowl. 27 May.

NO. 4.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, May, 23 1673.

My last to your Ex^{cy} was to Dover, since which wee have had only the Dutch and Flanders mayles, but this day no forreigne letters.

Yesterday my Lady O'Bryen sent for me and told me that one of her Ladyship's to your Ex^{cy}, which shee thinkes was sent by me on Thursday was 7 night by Mr. Mountague's boy, never came to your Ex^{cies} hand, which her Ladyship as well as I wonder much at, in regard her servant saw me putt it up in mine and give it to the boy. I putt her Ladyship in hopes it [might] light into the hands of your Ex^{cies} servants after your departure, and so when your Ex^{cy} mentioned the not receiving it, it was not then come to hand, not knowing else how it could possibly miscary.

In your Ex^{cies} last to Mr. Yard you were pleased to command me to write to your Ex^{cy} the reports of the towne, which I shall

secrets to him. The King made him a Baronet and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber. He was employed in the Foreign Office for the ciphers. Sir W. Temple, in one of his letters from the Hague to Lord Arlington, speaks of Morland's having given him a lesson on the ciphers at the Foreign Office. (Courtenay's Life of Temple, i. 190.)

most faithfully observe, begging only your Ex^{cy}s pardon for the mistakes and falsities of them, and that your Ex^{cy} will excuse me for writing exactly what I heare. The whole towne is now no longer in doubt of my Lord Treasurer's being a Roman Catholique, since the passage that unluckily fell out on Saturday last, which day his Lordship having given out he sett apart from all business to prepaire for the Sacrament, the people reported he would take it in St. Martin's Church, but such was the misfortune that that after-noon, coming out of Somersett House in a private coach, the back way, with only Father Patrick with him, at the entrance into the Broad Place in the Strand, the coach was unfortunately overthrowne, and his Lordship and the Father exposed to the view of the streete, one bringing his hatt, another his perriwig, with complements that they were very sorry for the mischance, so that his Lordship tooke boate and came privately home by water. They say now of him that he has been but lately seduced, and that by Father Patrick, who, though seemingly acts a hard head, has more wits than he suffers to appeare at once. And that on Wednesday last the Councell was conveened on purpose about resolveing what to do with him since he quitted not the nation according to order. Sir Thomas Osborne all say shall have the staffe, or one of the commissioners, and some put in my Lord Arlington. A Roman Catholique told me, discourseing of it, that my Lord Treasurer he wondered was not concerned at the generall report of his ingratitude to my Lord Arlington,¹ since none had been more gratefull, as particularly in upholding his interest when flagging under the contrary faction

¹ Evelyn, a warm friend of Clifford, who gives him in all other respects the highest praise, speaks very reproachfully of his ingratitude to Arlington, who had been his patron, and powerfully helped for the King's making him Treasurer of the Household in 1668. Evelyn mentions his having seen Clifford's letters on that occasion to Arlington, and says "they were written with such submissions and professions of his patronage as I had never seen any man acknowledging." Evelyn accuses Clifford of having pretended to Arlington that he was working in his interest to get him made Lord Treasurer, while he managed to get it for himself, "assuring the King that Lord Arlington did not desire it." (Evelyn's Diary, August 18, 1673.)

of Orrery,¹ and that he was confident my Lord Arlington would not stand long (which I believe, if he or his faction could prevent it). They marke now in the towne that my Lord Clifford has always observed popish hollydays, and would never doe business on any of them, and that his chappell was only for fashion and for his servants, his Lordship nor Lady never frequenting it.

Collonell Russell continues firme in his resolutions not to serve under the D. of Buckingham, and intends therefore to be going into the cuntry suddainly, so that they talke as if he should be layd bye and the comand of that regiment given to the Duke of Buckingham, who should alwayes attend it, and Sir Thomas Morgan goe in his roome. The 14th of the next is they say to be the generall review of his Majestyes forces at Black-Heath, his Majesty having, besides the Duke of Buckingham's recruits, ordered 40 to be added to each company in his present army. The people seeme much satisfyed at the great hopes of footing in Holland or Zealand, and promise themselves after this warr a long succession of peace. Only great wagers are laid dayly in the coffee-houses about the meeting of the Parliament, some saying they must, others they cannot safely meet.² Her Majesty has been these two dayes not well, but without the least appearance of danger.

The Venetian Resident here is recalled, and now Sir Thomas Higgons³ takes his leave this weeke to go thither. I must now beg

¹ Orrery is Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery, known as Lord Broghill during the Protectorate, when he was a friend of Cromwell. After Lord Chancellor Clarendon's fall in the end of 1667, Orrery had for some time great influence in Charles the Second's councils, but he held no office beyond being a Privy Councillor. (Rawdon Papers, Letters 101, 103.) There is a statement, evidently derived from himself, that the Duke and Duchess of York urged him to apply for the Lord Chancellorship when Clarendon was removed. (Morrice's *Memoirs of Orrery*, prefixed to his *State Letters*, p. 76.)

² Parliament, after the cancelling of the Declaration of Indulgence and the passing of the Test Act, had been adjourned on March 29 to October 20: when it did meet, it was for technical reasons prorogued till the 27th, and then met for a session, which was, however, suddenly cut short by a prorogation on November 9.

³ Sir Thomas Higgins, M.P. for Windsor. Marvell's description of him (1677) is: "hath a pension of 500*l.* per annum, and hath had 4,000*l.* in gifts, married to the Earl of Bath's sister." He was married to Elizabeth, Countess of Essex, widow of Robert Devereux, third Earl, who died in 1646.

your Excellency to permitt me to add a line of the account of the wine, &c. the money for which (Mr. Yard telling me he had none) I went with him and borrowed to give the Quaker, who would not trust us out of his sight. The Quaker's bill came to 30*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* and 3*l.* 10*s.* for the carriage backward and forward, all which is now demanded of mee againe, being 34*l.* in all, which I most humbly beg your Ex^{cy} to order Mr. Yard or I may receive of Mr. Newcombe to defray it according to promise.

In all humility and due respect I most humbly am,

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Your Ex^{cies} most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

Acknowl. 27 May.

NO. 5.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, 26 May, 1673.

Since my last wee have the good news of the arrivall of the Streights Fleet, under the convoy of Capt. Narbrough at Plimouth.

This afternoone a very sober marchant was with me and told me that with this fleet was arrived the Humphry and Elizabeth (a ship of 40 guns sent out by the East India Company in November last with recruits for the fort at [St.] Helena) and the Suratte marchant-man of 26 guns from the East Indies, that the captaine of the former advises that he, togeather with the said Suratte marchant, were at St. Helena when three Dutch men-of-war, fitted out at the Cape of Good Hope by the Dutch, arrived there, and that they were in fight with them one whole day till evening, when the Dutch (while our ships expected to engage them againe the next morneing) gott to the other side of the island and in the night landed 700 men, who without any difficulty made themselves masters of the fort; upon which the Humphry and Elizabeth togeather with the Suratte took their course to Brasile, where they

hired a small vessell to goe out and meet our East India ships, that are comeing home to give them notice of what had happened, and so proceeded homeward. This account I am assured the East India Company have ; yet wee may be deceived in this report, as I hope wee are, and therefore I humbly beg your Ex^{ty} will be pleased to expect the further certainty by the next post.

Wee have not any news from the fleet since they sailed for the coast of Holland, though wee expect dayly to hear from them ; I heard Secretary Coventry say yesterday, that in case the Dutch did avoid fighting, that the Prince¹ should send 30 of our lightest frigats, 12 of the French, and 12 fire-ships, with 24 tenders, in amongst them as they lay at ankor in the Weilings, and that Capt. Wetwang is to have the conduct of this exploit.

This day I am told the marchants had advice (though I cannot hear the King had any such,) that the Dutch fleet being gone towards the Texell the Prince was come to an ankor in Schoonvelt, and so would call them of from retreateing to their place of refuge in the Weilings. Yesterday the Committee mett about ordering the precedency of the officers of the army.

Mr. Skinner at Leghorne and Mr. Legat at Genoua complaine that they have not of late received the ordinary newspaper, which Mr. Ball tells me is by your Ex^{cies} order. I fear when they find that failes them they will forbear corresponding with us. Wee have not received any letters from France since your Ex^{cies} departure.

I am, with all dutifull respect,

My Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull, obedient, and most obliged servant,

R. YARD.

The Earle of Sunderland² it is thought may now be in a condition to begin his journey.

¹ Prince Rupert.

² Robert Earl of Sunderland, now thirty-two years of age, had been named Plenipotentiary.

No. 6.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Ex^{ty},

Whitehall, 30th May, 1673.

I doubt not but your Ex^{ty} will ere the receipt of this have had the particulars of the losse of St. Helena, for Mr. Page told me he sent them your Ex^{ty} by the last post; the East India Company hope that the vessell sent out for Brasile by the Captains of the Humphry and Elizabeth will have the good fortune to meet their homeward-bound ships to give them caution to avoid the danger.

Wee have not any forreigne news to communicate to your Ex^{ty}. Had we received any by the last post from France or Italy I should have presumed to have sent it your Ex^{ty} this night; but Mr. Perwick has taken another way to send my Lord the advices of those parts, so that most times wee doe not see them, and when wee doe, they are so stale, as that they are not worth your Ex^{cies} readeing.

All men now conclude Sir Thomas Osborne shall succeed my Lord Treasurer, and Mr. Seymor¹ him in his employment of Treasurer of the Navy. In the mean time the people's discourses are very free and open concerneing what the Parliament will doe at their next Sessions.

Wee are at present in a great expectation to hear from the Fleet, who wee not doubt but was engaged with the Enemy on Wednesday

potentiary at Cologne, jointly with Jenkins and Williamson; but he never proceeded abroad. He had previously been Ambassador first at Madrid and then at Paris. He succeeded Williamson as Secretary of State in 1679, and afterwards had a conspicuous, but not creditable, public career.

¹ Edward Seymour, afterwards Sir Edward Seymour, baronet, had been elected Speaker in the last Parliament, February 1673. He was the first Speaker of the House of Commons who was not a lawyer; and there was another innovation in his case, that he was a Privy Councillor when elected Speaker. He was the head of the elder branch of the great Seymour family, the Duke of Somerset of the time being descended from a younger son of the Duke Protector. He was made Treasurer of the Navy, on Osborne's succeeding Clifford.

last, for all that day was heard a great deale of shooting as well by vessells come from sea as at Harwich and other places; the weather was that day pretty gentile and the wind N. W. and what confirms this opinion is that the Prince writt on Tuesday that he would take the first good weather to fall upon the enemy, which he had not yet had since his being on their coast. God send us good news!

The Clerks of the Signett scruple to part with their books, that is to permitt them to be carried out of their office, and at the same time adde a complement, that they pray your Ex^{ty} not to take it amisse of them that they cannot without great prejudice to their office suffer notes to be taken out of their books as your Ex^{ty} desires.

Wee just now have the letters of Friday last from Flanders, but not any from your Ex^{ty}. The master from this packett boat heard the shooting on Wednesday. Wee are in great expectation to hear what has happened.

I am with all dutifull respect,

May it please your Ex^{ty},

Your Ex^{tyes} most faithfull obedient Sérvant,

R. YARD.

R. ¹/₈.

NO. 7.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.¹

MY LORD,

Whitehall, June 2nd, 1673.

I forbore troubling your Ex^{ty} by the last post, having nothing of moment to impart to you, neither had we then any account of the fight more then strong presumptions that there had been one, which you had earlier notice of then wee possibly could have; the relation wee have since had from the Prince goes here enclosed in print, by which you will see wee wholly want the particulars

¹ A clerk in the Secretary of State's Office, one of Williamson's regular correspondents, who ultimately became Under-Secretary in 1682.

concerning the Dutch losses, and many circumstances of our owne fleet in reference to the engagement.¹ This morning Coll. Tho. Howard² arrived here with letters of the 31st of the last, but tells us little more but the losse of severall land officers, which, considering there were so many in the fleet, could not but be expected.

The report of S^r Thomas Osborne's succeeding my Lord Treasurer in his place is much cooled, though according to the best information I have my Lord Treasurer designs the leaving his place, and the discourse now is that it will be executed by Commissioners. The King has appointed a generall rendezvous of his forces upon Blackheath near Greenwich, where they are to be encamped till such time it shall be thought convenient to ship them in order to a descent in Zeeland or Holland; a suitable traine of artillery is likewise in readinesse with its respective officers, and the Duke as yet continues his resolution of going in person as generallissimo; it is not knowne who goes as maj^r-generall, Coll. Russell having refused the employment because the Duke of Buckingham was made Lieut^t generall, he pretending to it.

His Royall High^{nes} match with the Princesse of Inspruch is quite off, and orders were last week sent to Sir B. Gascon immediately to take his leave and retire from that Court.³ There have

¹ The engagement was on Wednesday, May 28. The result was indecisive. Both Commanders-in-Chief, Prince Rupert and De Ruyter, claimed victory. But the English and French losses were not very considerable, and the allied fleet remained on the Dutch coast. De Ruyter, reporting to the Prince of Orange, admitted great losses: "Five ships, which were quite disabled, I have sent to Ulising [Flushing] to be refitted. Three of our men-of-war are missing, and, I fear, lost. We have lost most of our gun-ships, and a great many men." See Ralph's Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 235.

² Also called Captain Howard in these letters; probably a younger brother of Charles Howard, Earl of Carlisle.

³ Negotiations for a marriage of the Duke of York with the daughter of the Archduke of Innspruck had been proceeding for more than a twelvemonth, and everything was concluded, when the death of the Empress of Austria in March, leaving the Emperor free to marry this Princess, the Duke and the English government were obliged to forego this marriage. Sir Bernard Gascoigne, the English

been some thoughts of the Duke of Newburgh's daughter, and (as they say) a niece of Card^l de Retz's;¹ but I doe not heare of any direct overtures yet made of the one or the other, though I beleve the Earl of Peterborow² may be instructed to see both or one of them.

The news from the French camp I doe not question but you have att first hand, and therefore trouble you with none of itt.

My lord commands me to acknowledge y^r severall letters of the 24th, 27th, 29th of the last, and make his excuses he does it not himselfe in a distinct letter to yourselfe in this post.

I shall bee glad to heare of your safe arrivall att the place of

Resident at Vienna, who had conducted the negociations there, was a Florentine by birth, who had served long in the army of Charles I. All the despatches on this matter of the Earl of Arlington to Sir Bernard Gascoigne are printed in "*Miscellanea Antica*," London, 1702. Lord Arlington's despatch to Sir B. Gascoigne telling him to quit is dated May 26.

¹ There were many ladies thought of after the Empress's death and the giving up of hope of the Princess of Innspruck: the Emperor's sister, the Duchess of Guise (a cousin of Louis XIV.), a Princess of Wurtemberg, Princess of Neuburg, the Princesses d'Elbeuf of the House of Lorraine, a daughter of the Duc de Retz, a Princess of Spain, and two Princesses of the House of Modena. Louis XIV. wished for the Duchess of Guise, but Lord Peterborough pronounced her ugly. The Princess of Wurtemberg was thought of by Charles and James, but they changed their minds, and sent Lord Peterborough to see the Princess of Neuburg. See No. 59 of July 21. Her appearance did not please Lord Peterborough. This Princess afterwards married the Emperor, after the death of his second wife. See full particulars in "*Les Derniers Stuarts à St. Germain de Laye par la Marquise de Cavelli*," 2 vols. 4to. 1871. The choice ultimately fell on Princess Mary of Modena.

² The Earl of Peterborough had been appointed Ambassador to Vienna for the purpose of concluding the affair of the Duke of York's marriage with the Princess of Innspruck: he had only just left England, and had not reached Paris *en route* for Vienna, when the news of the death of the Empress of Austria reached the English Government. He was immediately ordered not to proceed further. This Earl of Peterborough was the second of the title, and was through life a devoted friend of Charles I. and his sons Charles and James. He fought in the Civil Wars, and was wounded at Newbury. He died in 1697. He has given a detailed account of his mission in quest of a second wife for the Duke of York in his work on genealogies published under the name of Halstead.

congresse,¹ and of your good successe in your negociation, which I hartily wish, and am with all respect and truth,

My Lord,

Y^r Ex^{cia}s most faithfull and most humble servant,

WM. BRIDGEMAN.

B. 44.

NO. 8.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 2, 1673.

This morning I received your Excellencies of the 27th past, and most humbly begg your Excellency's pardon for y^e late mentioned account of the bill which I was forced to intreate your Excellency's comand in, because none else would take it upon them. I hope your Excellency will be confident I neglect not in the least your Excellency's comands or business.

Now some say My Lord Treasurer will not quitt his imployment for the oath sake; but all the Roman Catholiques say he will, which I rather believe in regard they have great interest with him.

Mr. Blood the elder² went on Tuesday last into Ireland (as he

¹ The Ambassadors arrived at Cologne on June 3, having stayed some days at Antwerp.

² "Mr. Blood the elder" is the notorious ruffian who had attempted to assassinate the Duke of Ormond and afterwards to steal the Crown from the Tower, and had been not only pardoned by the King (astounding enough!) but taken into his favour and rewarded with the grant of an estate of 500*l.* a-year in Ireland. See Sir Gilbert Talbot's relation of Blood's attempts on the Crown and Duke of Ormond in Strype's Survey of London, vol. ii. p. 91, and Carte's Life of Ormond, vol. ii. pp. 420-5. These crimes of Blood were committed in 1670 and 1671. Evelyn relates meeting him at dinner at Sir Thomas Clifford's, then Treasurer of the Household, on May 10, 1671 (but there is some mistake about the date: it would probably have been later in the year), "Dined at Mr. Treasurer's in company with Monsieur de Grammont and several French noblemen, and one Blood, that impudent bold fellow who had not long before attempted to steal the imperial Crown itself out of the Tower, pretending only curiosity of seeing the regalia there, when, stabbing the keeper, though not mortally, he boldly went away with it through all the guards, taken only by the accident of his horse falling down. How he came to be pardoned, and even received into favour,

pretended by my Lord Arlington's leave), but I heare his Lordship was rather gladd of his absence, he having lost himself much by his impertinance: he pretends to have a great estate left his wife, but Dr. Butler tells me 'tis only a flamme, and he has none att all on that side. The Presbyterian party all renounce him as one that has kept not very well his word with his Majesty as to serving him.

Mr. Philip Lloyd, Mr. Sherwin, and Mr. Fillingham with 3 others are this weeke made commissioners for the managing the late Act of Parliament for money,¹ with a sallery of 250*l.* per annum to each of them, besides allowance for house rent and servants. Mr. De la Dale lyes dangerously ill, and his recovery doubted. My Lord Duke of Ormond's family is now in mourning for his Lordship's mother my Lady Thurles, now lately dead.²

My Lord Duke of Buckingham is not yet returned from Yorkshire, but I heare his Lordship has compleated his regiment to 100 each companye.

not only after this but several other exploits almost as daring both in Ireland and here, I could never come to understand. Some believed he became a spy of several parties, being well with the sectaries and enthusiasts, and did his Majesty services that way which none alive could do so well as he." The murderous assault on Ormond was a greater villany. Carte relates, in his "Life of Ormond," that Blood had pretended to the King great power among the fanatics. "He was admitted," says Carte, "into all the privacy and intimacy of the Court: no man more assiduous than he in both the Secretaries' offices. If any one had business at Court that stuck, he made his application to Blood, as the most industrious and successful solicitor, and many gentlemen courted his acquaintance, as the Indians pray to the Devil—that he may not hurt them. He was perpetually in the royal apartments, and affected particularly to be in the same room where the Duke of Ormond was, to the indignation of all others, though neglected and overlooked by his Grace. All the world stood amazed at this mercy, countenance, and favour showed to so atrocious a malefactor, the reasons and meaning of which they could not see or comprehend." Amazing, indeed, were the ways of Charles the Second's government! This reference to Blood in Mr. Ball's letter shows his connection with the Secretary of State's office.

¹ An Act had been passed in the last Session for granting a supply of 1,238,750*l.*

² Lady Thurles, widow of Thomas Lord Thurles, eldest son of the eleventh Earl of Ormond, who died before his father's death, and thus did not become Earl. Lady Thurles died in May, 1673, in her eighty-sixth year. Her eldest son, James, twelfth Earl, was created Duke of Ormond on the coronation of Charles the Second.

From Harwich of yesterday wee heare that on Saturday evening came in the Essex ketch, who was on board the Cambridge frigatt now come in disabled, and said that the Dutch fleete retireing early into their sands, and the English fleete not daring to follow them for feare of their sands, the victory could not be pursued so home as might be, so that wee have no other particulars then the printed relation.

All your Excellency's concernes at your house are well, and I hope I shall never be so forgettfull of your favours as to spend my time in vaine, but make that use of it that your returne may find me at least indeavouring all I can to be,

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient Servant,

HENRY BALL.

My Lady¹ gave me the inclosed in returne of your Excellency's I carryed her Ladyship this day.

R $\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 9.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please y^r Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, 2 June, 1673.

Last night late I received y^r Ex^{cies} of the 24. and 27. from Antwerp, in one of which y^r Ex^{cy} told me of a letter enclosed for S^r Robert Carre; how it happened I cannot tell, but I assure your Ex^{cy} there came none to my hand for him; however, I have been to waite upon him and his lady with a compliment from your Ex^{cies}.

Wee have been for these two or three days past very much entertained with news from the fleet; the truest y^r Ex^{cy} can have is what is said in the Prince's letter made publicke, and here enclosed to y^r Ex^{cy}, to which I have onely to adde that this morneing Capt. Howard arrived from the fleet, which he left at ankor Saturday last

¹ Lady Catherine O'Brien.

at noone off of the Oster Banke, the same place from whence the Prince dated his letter on Thursday : the account which hitherto is given the King is of 400 men killed in the fleet, and that the fleet is at present in not much worse condition then it was before the engagement. Capt. Narbrough is hastening to the fleet with six frigatts and two fireships, and in the mean time more fireships are fitting out in the river to be sent to the Prince.

It is not yet known whether Mr. Hamilton¹ will recover or not. Mr. Howard, at his comeing from the fleet, left him very ill ; he was wounded by the first bullet that was shott, and was so near the Prince that several cryed out when they saw Mr. Hamilton fall that the Prince was slain.

This night Mr. Rechle is gone for Zealand to take an account of the losses they have received in this engagement.

Our forces are marching to the general rendezvous, and all things are preparing for their transportation.

I am, with all dutifull respect,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R $\frac{1}{2}$.

NO. 10.—FROM HARTGILL BARON.

On boord the Sovereigne under sayle off of Lastow² at two in the afternoone the 5th of June, '73, the wind at N.B.E.³

Sir,

I think it my duty to give your Excellency an account of a second engagement with the Dutch, since I find they are here very

¹ Colonel James Hamilton, eldest brother of Anthony Hamilton, author of the "Memoirs of Count Grammont." He was a favourite of Charles II. and a groom of the bedchamber.

² Lowestoft.

³ This is an authoritative account from the fleet of a second engagement with the Dutch on Tuesday, June 4. Mr. Hartgill Baron, the writer, was an old Royalist who had rendered many services to the royal cause during the Commonwealth, and he was now, it is to be presumed, secretary to Prince Rupert, the Admiral. The losses and injuries sustained by the English fleet in this engagement were much more serious than in the previous one.

dextrous to invent and spread lyes where there is noe cause or ground for it. I presume when anything lookes a little suspicious as to the world, it may with much more ease facilitate such designes. Your Excellency must know that the Prince has changed his ship by reason there is a fault in the Royall Charles that she heeles and cannot beare sayle, which must be repayred; not that any disaster or misfortune is come to her. And now I begin with our batle. We anchored yesterday at the end of the Oster Banck about 7 leagues distant from East Capell, and the Dutch fleet almost at their doores, as I gave your Excellency an account in my last. They, being soe neere soe good a store house as Flushing (where all recruits lye ready), refitted their shippes, knowing on their weighing anchor wee must doe the like; accordingly yesterday, about 11 in the forenoone, they loosened their top sayles and weighed, whereuppon wee did the same, the wind blowing fresh at N.E. our course stood N. N.W. the enemy having soe favourable a gale that wee could not stretch to the head of them. They resolved to attacque us on that great advantage, to carry us off their coast, to give them some little repute after their last beating; on this we made all the sayle we could, thinking to weather them, but could not, soe that betweene 4 and 5 in the afternoone yeasterday, after much working with our fleet, the Amsterdam squadron attacqued our blew squadron (being our van) comanded by Sir Edward Spragge, and soe the fight continued, the Dutch fighting at a very great distance (I meane firing) according to their old custome. By this time, which was about 5 of the clock, his Highness (with his wonted resolution) and the French engaged, but the Dutch kept up soe close to their wind that his Highness could not possibly goe soe neere as to reward their pittypfull behaviour in this action. This fight continued till halfe an howre past 10 at night, in which they did some mischief to our sayles and rigging, and some little damage to our masts and yards, but very little to our hulls, officers, or seamen. Had they been brave, haveing soe good a gale, they would have come up close, which might perhapps have recovered something of their

lost credit, and created them some little reputation againe in the world.

The fight being ended with the daylight, which was betweene 10 and 11 o'clock, wee expected the Dutch would have taken their leave in the morning of us, but about 12 or 1 at night they stood of to their owne coasts (as we guesse by their being soe far of next morning). We tacked also after them; on this, his Highness advising with the flagge officers of our fleet, it was judged absolutely necessary to sayle over to the Buoy of the Nore, knowing that our fleet wilbe sooner refitted and victualled there then provisions could possibly be brought to them. We having been 7 weekes at sea, the provisions of many shippes grow short and ill-fitted out at first, as your Excellency may remember by his Highnes many complaints thereof, and two engagements happening in 8 dayes time our shott was almost spent, and this is the true cause, else we had still stood off at sea.

We shall use all possible diligence to refitt and appeare where we last anchored at their doores againe; especially Captain Norborough being retourned with the Streights fleet, we shall find good recruits both for men and shippes. I say not this distrusting our numbers now (we and the French having enough), who behaved themselves very well alsoe in this engagement.

The Dutch in this action play'd the poultrones more then ever, firing at soe great a distance, and runing home againe in the night, which tells the world their hearts are halfe broken already.

Their losse in this engagement is doubtlesse very great, we seeing many of their shippes goeing off disabled, and I assure you ours is very inconsiderable, we having lost not one ship, and onely Captaine Sadlington and Captain White slayne, and noe other officer hurt, and this true relation your Excellency may depend on from me who was an eye witnes to the whole action.

Sir, I have by his Highnes comand sent your Excellency this relation by expresse to Ostend, knowing, as I told you before, that

the Dutch at this conjuncture wilbe at their old trade of lying.
Having noe more now to write, I conclude most entirely,

Sir,

Your Excellencies most faithfull servant,
HARTGILL BARON.

NO. 11.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, 6 June, 1673.

Yesterday morning wee had the allarme from Harwich of our fleets being engaged the day before, which however was hardly believed by many, who could not think that the Dutch would resolve to come out to fight us. This morning wee had the confirmation, and about noone arrived letters from the Prince, out of which hath been framed a relation which will be made publicke to morrow, and a copy whereof your Ex^{cy} will receive enclosed in my Lord's letter, to which I can only adde, that Mr. Colt, the Earle of Ossory's¹ lieutenant, who brought the letters, speaks of two fire-ships we have lost, one being accidentally burnt and the other sunk, and that our fleet is come to the Buoy of the Nore, by reason they wanted powder and fresh water, though most people will have that they are disabled in their rigging. 5,000 barrells of powder were sent downe two days since in order to be sent to the fleet, so that they will be quickly provided with that store.

Collonell Hamilton is dead here in towne of the wound he received in the last fight. The forces are on their march from the severall parts of this kingdom towards the generall rendezvous, which is to be tomorrow seavennight upon Blackheath.

The King haveing been abroad this week on the councill days, nothing of moment hath passed there.

¹ The eldest son of the Duke of Ormond; he was Rear-Admiral of the Blue Squadron in this fight.

All people continue in great expectation to see what my Lord Treasurer and some other great men will doe at Court, in relation to receiving the Sacrament; some report that on Monday seaven-night the former will resigne his place, others think he will after all continue in it, though few believe the latter.

The Duke of Bucks is not yet returned out of the north of England, where he hath been raising of men, and it is thought he will march them in a body to Blackheath. A great many people seem displeased that Major Fitzgerald,¹ a Roman Catholicke, should be made major generall of the army now to be brought on foot, and indeed many discourses of this kind are very loose in the generall.

The enclosed extract of inland news is all I have to communicate to your Ex^{cy}.

I humbly beg your Ex^{cy} will be pleased to give a favorable construction to all my endeavors, which shall ever be to serve your Ex^{cy} with that faithfullness and devotion as becomes y^r Ex^{cy}'s

Most faithfull, obedient, and obliged Servant,

R. YARD.

R 12.

No. 12.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please y^r Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, June 6, 1673.

I doubt not in y^e least your Ex^{cies} pardon for my continuall scribbling and favourable acceptance of what comes to my knowledge, which is indeed not very much by reason I frequent so seldom publique places in great company, yet I assure your Excellency nothing shall pass materiall in y^e Signet or other offices but your Excellency shall have an account. This weeke past a warrant in my Lord's office of a grant to my Lord Grandison and Edward Villiers, Esq^{re} ² of all moneyes arising by compositions or

¹ Major Fitzgerald, an Irish officer, had been Deputy-Governor of Tangier.

² Lord Grandison was uncle of the Duchess of Cleveland, Charles's mistress; he

discharges which now, or within 3 years, shall be made for the encreased rents and new estates of any lands, &c. in y^e Dutchy of Cornwall, and what shall be due within y^e 3 years.

Another to Henry Jermyn¹ and R^d Cooling Esq^{res} and their heires, in trust for y^e Earle of St. Alban and his heires, of 604 acres of improved grounds within the wasts of the Mannor of Somersham, in Huntingdon, which were in y^e Chequer Court decreed to be injoyed by y^e said Earl, his heirs, &c. against his Majesty, at 20*l.* rent añually, formerly received and payable for it; another to y^e Earle of Bridgwater, to impark 800 acres of land in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire; another of the dignity of a Baronet of England to Francis Warre of Hestercombe, in Somersetshire, and his money due thereupon given to Dame Unton Warre.² Also another to Sir Hugh Cholmeley of a confirmation of his estate at Whitby, and liberty given him to errect a wharfe or haven at Saltwich, in Yorkshire; another for Hasswell Dynt, Esq^{re}, to be a Baronett of England of Hasswell, in Dorsetshire.

The Comission of Appeales renewed, and Sir Tho. Berry and Sir Paule Neile added to the Comission, with Mr. Charles Benet and y^e rest; a bill for the payment of 9,000*l.* to William Harbord, Esq^{re}, for the purchase of Grafton Parke, belonging to that manor, with reversion to the Earle of Euston³ after the Earle of Arlington; as also 5,388*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to be payde by William Prittman for the purchase of a lease of lands in Kentish Towne, helde of the Dean

had succeeded his brother, her father, as Lord Grandison. Edward Villiers was his brother, another uncle of the lady. The grant was for her benefit.

¹ Henry Jermyn was nephew of the Earl of St. Alban's, Lord Chamberlain, who had been married privately to Charles II.'s mother, Queen Henrietta. Jermyn was created Baron Dover in 1685.

² By the original rules of the order, founded in 1612, every Baronet was required to pay 1,095*l.* for the honour.

³ The Earl of Euston, afterwards Duke of Grafton, natural son of Charles by Lady Castlemaine, had been betrothed at the early age of eight on August 1, 1672, to the daughter of Arlington, then four years old. The betrothal was with all the solemnity of a marriage. They were re-married November 6, 1679.

and Chapter of St. Paul's, to be injoyed by the Earle of Arlington, and after his death by the Earle of Euston and his heires; and 2,000*l.* to Sir Stephen Fox for secret service, and a new agreement made with the victuallers of the navy.

The names of the commissioners for the managing the late subsidy are Sir Richard Mason, Richard Sherwin, William Webb, Bartholmey Fillingham, and Phillip Loyd, Esq^{res}, with the yearly sallery of 250*l.* per. an. besides extraordinaries, as house rent, servants, etc.

Mr. Dugdale has begged his paper custome free to print his *Baronagium Angliæ* which is now going into y^e Press.¹

Yesterday evening dyed, in Channell Row, Collonell James Hamilton of y^e wounds he received in the late engagement, wherein his legg was quite shott off; his place of groome of the bedchamber was this day given to Mr. Henry Saville,² and he sworne into it.

Yester morning we received a letter from Mr. Taylor of Harwich intimateing the great noyse of guns heard there all the afternoon before; but, no confirmation comeing from any other place of it, his Majesty would not believe it till this morning, when about 10 came in the inland post, and wee heard the noyse confirmed from Harwich, Yarmouth, Southwold, Boston, etc. and about 12 came Mr. Colt from the Prince, and presently after him another, with the full relation of the action, which, because Mr. Yard sayes he sends your Excellency att large, I humbly beg your Excellency's pardon for my saying no more of it.

This day Sir Joseph Sheldon drew out his regiment of traine bands, and on Wednesday Sir Robert Vyner.³ They both par-

¹ The celebrated antiquary, Sir William Dugdale. The *Baronage of England* was published in 1675 and 1676, in 3 vols. folio.

² Younger brother of George, Lord Halifax, born Sir George Savile, Bart. In 1674 he was appointed Envoy at Paris, and in March, 1682, he came home to be a Commissioner of the Admiralty. He had, in 1680, been appointed Vice-Chamberlain; he was continued Vice-Chamberlain under James II.

³ Two city aldermen.

ticularly comanded me to present their humblest service to your Excellency.

My Lord Duke of Buckingham is returned from Yorkshire, where he has been making new recruits to his regiment, and it's said that, so jealous were y^e comanalty there of Popery, that not a man scarce would come into his Grace 'till he had gone and publicly with his officers tooke the Sacrament at Yorke. The whole towne do nothing but pretend to jealousyes of y^e growth of Popery, and have the strangest reports from divers parts of Wales of their numerous meetings and nightly trainings, and furnishing themselves with arms, etc. and so superstitious some are to their own opinions that this touchstone of the oaths is not enough to roote them out of comand, because many of those that were formerly counted Roman Catholiques have now swallowed the oaths, as Collonel Panton and Collonel Fitzgerald, who is to comand under the Prince this expedition.

This day early his Majesty and Royall Highness went to Greenwich and so to Blackheath, to view the preparations there, which are very great, and the concourse of people that intend to be spectators of the army are incredible.

My Lord Treasurer has not yet declared his mind as to holding or quitting his office; though most say he will, but say he is no Papist, but scruples only the subscription of the renouncing of of transubstantation: his Lordship continues his dayly prayers in his chappell after the forme of the Church of England.

My Lord Lieutenant of Ireland¹ has sent over the petition, examination, and proceedings of the adversaries of Peter Talbott, therein charging him with severall follyes of exerciseing Papall authority there; so that my Lord, after his examination, has left it to his choise whither to quitt that kingdome or stand upon his own vindication.

I fear I have forgott myselfe in thus long troubling your

¹ Arthur Capel, Earl of Essex, appointed Lord Lieutenant August 5, 1672.

Excellency, I most humbly beg your Excellency would believe none shall more diligently observe your comands then,

May it please your Grace,

Your Grace's most obedient and faithful Servant,

HENRY BALL.

This day appeared at Councell before his Majesty the Oxfordshire justices about their too busy carriage about Indulgence.¹

R $\frac{1}{2}$.

NO. 13.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 9th, '73.

In my Lord's letter last post your Ex^{ty} had an account of the second engagement which happened on the 4th Current S(tilo) V(eteri): it was a pure bravado of the Dutch, which they had not courage to execute equall to their designe, and consequently would not stay to bee better beaten then they were; soe they are retired to their own coast, where they will easily refitt themselves again for such an encounter. Since, the Prince has thought fitt in the like manner to bring our fleet in the buoy of the Nore to refit and furnish themselves with provisions of all kinds, the readinesse of which are by his Ma^{ties} and his Royall High^{ness} great care much advanced to his hand; soe wee hope he will not make any long stay in port, yet during that time the King and the Duke resolve to make a visitt to the fleet, there to take their last conclusions in order to this summer's expedition.

¹ See later in Sir R. Southwell's and Mr. Ball's letters of June 13, a similar question with Sir Robert Shirley and the Warwickshire justices. Licenses for Dissenters' worship were given under the King's Declaration of Indulgence of March, 1672: and Parliament had compelled the cancelling of this Declaration on March 7 1673.

Coll. Hamilton being dead of his wound, the King has given his regiment to my L^d Widdrington.¹

The enclosed letter is the King's instructions to your Ex^{cie} concerning a point about the English and Dutch East India Company, which my Lord mentioned in his last.

I am, with all truth and respect, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull humble servant,

WM. BRIDGEMAN.

Indorsed, R $\frac{1}{2}$, acknowledged $\frac{1}{4}$.

NO. 14.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 9, 1673.

Since my last on Fryday nothing has past in the Signett Office but a grant and allowance of 12,000*l.* to John Forth, Sir William Bucknall and others, the farmers of his Majesty's Customes of Irelande, in consideration of their losses sustained by the Dutch Warr before Christmas last, to be defalked out of their rents then due.

Since our fleet's comeing to the buoy of the Nore, the commonalty will not believe but that wee were beaten home, that the Earle of Ossory was wounded, Sir Edward Spragge killed, etc. and in generall all the phanatickes believe it still, Beach the Quaker assuring me this day 'twas soe.

There is great disturbance happened lately in the Heralds' Office, where Mr. Leigh and Mr. Sandford, being in particular favour with the Earle Marshall,² have represented severall greivances among them, and particularly that of the Kings of Armes granting coates and never bringing a register of them into the office; upon which

¹ Second Lord Widdrington; his father had died fighting at the Battle of Wigan for the King, 1 August, 1651. This Lord was a Roman Catholic.

² The Earl of Norwich, so created in 1672, and at the same time made Earl Marshal; afterwards by inheritance Duke of Norfolk.

my Lord ordered that Sir Edward Walker¹ should grant no armes or supporters without my Lord's leave, and also the other Kings, which Sir Edward opposes, and petitioned his Majesty for a reference of the dispute to the Lord Privy Seale,² which was granted him, upon whose report something more is to be done; but to prevent further broyles Sir Edward is contented to make up this breach with my Lord, and this weeke to end all, and the next to goe into the countrey. But Sir Edward Bishe has not scaped so, for being by my Lord ordered in May to bring in all his grants and late visitations by the last of that month, and upon report from the office of his not doing it, my Lord on Satturday last sent his order to the office for the suspending Sir Edward from his profitts and execution of his place, and from going visitations, till he brings them in; and in the meane the heralds and pursuivants to visitt for him, and the profit there of to goe towards the building the office; which Sir Edward thinkes is very hard, though he acknowledges himselfe in some errours.

Sir Peter Wyche³ writes word that the Earle of Peterborough has told him that his Majesty had writt to him he would no longer expect the Emperour's answer, but ordered his Lordship to returne, so that Sir Peter hopes my Lord of Bath will stand his friend to gett him an allowance to goe to attend the Ambassy, or else the same he now has. My Lord is returning home with all hast.

The King and Duke went this morning to the campe at Blackheath, where is yet but 3 regiments of foot. Satturday was the day for the generall review, but by reason the Yorkshire men nor severall other of the recruites are not yet come, it's said 'twill be referred till the 18th instant. My Lord Mulgrave cannot bragge of

¹ Sir Edward Walker was Garter King of Arms.

² The Earl of Anglesey, appointed May 29, 1673.

³ There is a letter of Evelyn addressed, June 20, 1665, to Sir Peter Wyche, Knight, as Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Royal Society to consider of the improvement of the English Tongue, in Evelyn's *Diary and Correspondence*, iii. 159.

much interest in Yorkshire, where halfe his compliment are not yet raised; people talke strangely of the Duke of Buckingham's takeing the holy Sacrament of a Monday to bring in men. The people continue their aversness to Popery, and dayly comes pamphletts and bookes against it, one of which is enclosed, as also a strang ugly thing about Baxter, which makes a very great noyse, that Dr. Parker should licence the bookeseller's advertisement att the end of it, which I hope he did not, but a tricke of those fellows.¹ They say he has been examined and checked severely for it by the Councell. If your Excellency would have me send you such pamphletts I'll be sure to procure them, and till your Excellencies order therein shall send any that are materiall.

The following new commissions are lately past: Sir Jeremy Smith, Adjutant Generall in the expedition against Holland; Sir Ralfe Wharton, Major to the Earle of Northampton; Sir John Godolphin, Cornett to the Duke of Monmouth's troope of Horse Guards; Sir William King, Lieutenant Collonell to my Lord Power's² regiment, and Richard Magennis his Major; my Lord Widdrington, Collonell of Collonell James Hamilton's regiment; Francis Hamond a company in the Duke of Buckingham's regiment; and Captain Edward Sackville a company under Collonell Russell.

A warrant is sent to the Master of the Ordnance for permitting the French squadron to buy what shott they shall need.

A warrant is preparing for allowing to Mr. Milward and Sir Thomas Strickland 400*l.* per annum apeice, in consideration of their loss by the disposall of the Privy Seale.³

¹ There was published at this time a book called "Mr. Baxter baptized in blood," giving an account, which was fabulous, of a Church of England minister, named Baxter, being murdered in New England by Anabaptists with circumstances of great barbarity; and this book was licensed by Dr. Parker, afterwards Bishop of London. A. Marvell comments severely on Dr. Parker's licensing of this book in his *Hehearsal Transposed*, Part 2, p. 100 (ed. 1674).

² Richard, Lord Power, or le Poer, of Ireland, who was created Viscount Decies and Earl of Tyrone in October of this year, 1673. He died in the Tower of London in 1690. (Lodge's *Peerage of Ireland*, edit. Archdall, ii. 306.)

³ Mr. Milward and Sir Thomas Strickland had been, with Sir Edward Dering,

There is yet no disposition of the office of Treasurer, which the people say will not be yet, but my Lord will certainly quitt it.

His Majesty intends this weeke to goe down to the fleete, and some say Prince Rupert will come up, and the Earle of Ossory, the last of which is expected to-day, I suppose about the marriage of his daughter with the young Earl of Derby, who is going to travell presently after.¹

His Lordship's loss by his plate in his Ketch is valued in all att 1,500*l*. My Lord has been pleased to gett his Majesty to pass Mr. H. Bulstrode's pardon, and it's accordingly passing, att the request of his friends here, by the meanes of Mr. Henry Brouncker. I dare not press further upon your Excellency's patience, and most humbly begg your Excellency's favorable interpretation of my letters, and accept my zeale to serve your Excellency, as I shall not fayle most faithfully so to continue to doe, being with all humility and respect imaginable, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble and most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R $\frac{13}{25}$.

No. 15.—FROM THOMAS NEWCOMBE.²

May it please your Excellency,

I had given your Excellency troubles of this nature, many before this time, were it not that I feared I might be impertinent. I have

Commissioners of the Privy Seal, since 1669, when Lord Roberts, Lord Privy Seal, was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Strickland was M.P. for Westmerland, and Milward for Stafford. See, later, Sir R. Southwell's letter of June 13, p. 34.

¹ The Earl of Derby was a minor, only eighteen, and Lord Ossory's daughter, granddaughter of the Duke of Ormond, was only fourteen, when this marriage took place. Lord Derby was immediately sent abroad to travel with a Scotch tutor, James Forbes, whom Dryden has libelled as Phaleg in the second part of *Absalom and Achitophel*.

² Thomas Newcombe was entered on the Stationers' Register as proprietor of the *Gazette*, but probably Williamson was real owner. The *Gazette* had been begun at Oxford, November 13, 1665.

now to acquaint your Excellency, that your concern of the Gazette goes on very well, and will turn to very good account. That Mr. Yard is very carefull and diligent, and if I am not misinformed is very well resented both at the Court and in the City.

Since your Excellency left us, and the Prince's going to sea, his highness Prince Rupert hath written two letters to the Lord Arlington, touching two engagements with the Dutch, both which were printed, and I received them from the hands of Mr. Bridgman, who sent for me; the first past without any discourse; upon delivery of the second, Mr. Bridgman asked me who I used to make my acknowledgments to. I told him, to your Excellency, it being as I apprehended a perquisite appertaining to the Gazette; at my next coming he told me, that my Lord Arlington had told him I should account to him Mr. Bridgman. I begg your Excellencies orders what I shall doe in it, without which I stirr not a foot; and I pray, if it consist with your pleasure, by the next; since your Excellency knows, Hawkes are hungry and fly at all, but moulting or muting¹ time is coming, and then the poore things loose their game, though not their stomachs, because their wings faile them.

I am to returne your Excellency my humblest hearty thanks for your care of my son in sickness and health, and that you vouchsafe to own him; I know not how hee pays his acknowledgments, but

¹ *Muting*, changing, means the same as *moulting*, but the word is very rare in this meaning. Richardson in his Dictionary gives one example from Beaumont and Fletcher :

"Not one of my dragon's wings left to adorn me:
Have I muted all my feathers?"

The Little Thief, Act iv. sc. 1.

To mute has another special meaning as applied to birds, and especially to hawks, which is mentioned in all dictionaries, viz. to make dung. The following curious passage is given in Halliwell's Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words from "*Wjts, Fittes, and Fancies*," 1595: "One used an improper term to a falconer saying that his hawk dinged. The falconer told him that he should have said *muted*. Anon after, the fellow stumbled and fell into a cowshare, and the falconer asking him how he came so berayed, he answered in a cowmute."

I am sure the father can never sufficiently express his. In the mean time I pray God prosper your Excellency's person, continue your health, prosper your great undertakings, and return you with honor and success to your native country; which is the prayer of

Your most obliged humble servant,

THO. NEWCOMBE.

London, June 13, 1673.

R ^{26 June.}
_{6 July.}

No. 16.—FROM SIR JOHN ROBINSON, BART.

Deare Brother,¹

Town, 13th Junii (73).

I was very sorry you were soe long obstructed in your voyage by the wind; neverthelesse I hope you arriv'd well and safe, and that these may find you in good health. My Lord Mayor² was at Brandford³ Wednesday last, where we dranck your health, as alwayes we doe when we meete; this day wee dine at Greenwich, where we shall not faile likewise to remember you.

My Lord Mayor hath dranck to Mr. Linsey a Goldsmith as Sheriffe for this ensueing yeare, and I beleeeve he will hold;⁴ our old Recorder⁵ lyes adying, and we are aboute electing Mr. Sawyer, Sir Edmund Sawyer's sonn, of the Exchequer, to be in his place. The last weeke my Lord Arlington and Sir Robert Carr invited themselves by me

¹ This letter is from Sir John Robinson, Bart. Lieutenant of the Tower, and a City Alderman. He was a member of the City Clothworkers' Company with Williamson. Pepys mentions calling on him when he was Lord Mayor in 1663, and thus describes him: "My Lord Mayor, a talking, bragging, buffleheaded fellow, that would be thought to have led all the City in the great business of bringing in the King, and that nobody understood his plot, and the dark lanthorn he walked by; but he led them and ploughed with them as oxen and asses, his own words, to do what he had a mind; when in every discourse I observe him to be as very a coxcomb as I could have thought had been in the City:" and more to the same purpose (Pepys's Diary, March 17, 1663). Sir John was nephew of Archbishop Laud.

² Sir Robert Hanson.

³ Brentford.

⁴ He did not serve.

⁵ Sir John Howell; he survived until 1676, when he resigned and was succeeded by Sir William Dolben, afterwards a judge of the King's Bench.

to my Lord Mayor's to dinner, and my Lord of Ormond accompanied them; they were very merry and nobly enterteyn'd.

Sir Robert Carr is desirous to be one of your brethren, and to that purpose we must goe to his howse to be merry, and afterwards doe the like in the Citty. There hath beene little worth your notice since you went from hence, else I had wrought you sooner. We have made an end of our musters in the Citty and Hamletts. Your health was never forgott amongst the souldiers at the tent. Now that's over, that the archery may not fall to the ground, Sir Thomas Player and myselfe being chossen Stewards the last yeare by that worthy person Mr. Ellis that is dead, we have appointed the 30th of this month to meete at a dinner, and then we shall appointe a day for shooting, in order to which the targett is sent to be fitted. We are in a very serene temper in the Citty. I must not trouble you with news of the Fleete or these matters, for I am sure you have it from Whitehall; only I must tell you that the song of the Citty and upon the Exchang this day is that De Rutter was slaine¹ the last engagement, to the greate satisfacion of the Citty.

My humble service to Sir Lyonell Jenkins. You have the respects and service of all in Northamptonshire,² and all your brethren, who, togeather with myselfe, hope to heare from you of your health. I remaine most hartily,

Your most affectionate brother and faithfull servant,

J. ROBINSON.

Coll. Strangwith³ is now within, drincking Sir Lyonell Jenkins and your health, and presents his service to you both.

R^{60 June.}
6 July.

¹ A false report.

² Sir John Robinson was owner of Farming Woods, near Kettering, Northamptonshire.

³ Giles Strangways, M.P. for Dorsetshire. He was with Sir John Robinson, when Pepys visited him March 17, 1663, "in the cellar drinking." See note, p. 63.

No. 17.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL TO SIR LEOLINE
JENKINS AND SIR JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

My Lords,

Spring Garden, 13 June, 1673.

I may now justly conclude that your Excellencies are fixed at Cullen, and absent soe long as to like everything that comes from home; therefore on the presumption of your appetites I herewith send you copy of a Treaty with Guyland,¹ which has been read in Councill and very well approved, and ordered to be ratified. And Colonell Norwood² is directed to give account of what things Guyland left in his custody, that reparation may be made his Highnesse.

I send your Excellencies alsoe the draught of a letter which endured a long and very serious debate at the Board; the matter of it had beene often there, and severall draughts were made, and this was the compound of all, and much laboured by my Lord Privy Seale,³ touching his Majesty's Lycences to Dissenters. 'Twas alleaged that they were now but as snares to them that had them, and that somewhat ought to be signified for quietnesse sake till the Parliament mett, yett with soe much caution as neither to suspend the lawes in force, nor give authority to the licences. This was the nice narrow patch that could hardly be hitt, and which his Majesty thought was not in this draught. And there was a snare feared on the other side, because it was in the power of an informer to run up a justice one hundred pounds a time, as often as he should refraine from executing the lawes; and if his Majesty would not pay the score at last, or justify Mr. Justice for his refrayning, this might proove a noose to honest men; and therefore his Majesty waved to putt any thing in writing which would, how well soever drawne,

¹ A Moorish Prince near Tangier, who had frequently attacked it.

² Deputy Governor of Tangier.

³ The Earl of Anglesey, Arthur Annesley of the Restoration.

be quarrelled at, and create more trouble then the remedying all the particular complaints that may happen.¹

Wee had one this day of Sir Robert Sherlyes irreverence to his Majesty's lycences; but upon tryall, the bretheren were thought to be in the wrong, and Sir Robert dissmist with good words. The country gentlemen will be much satisfyed therein, for the assembly of them was great, and they came up with much jealousy and concerne to see this event.

'Tis expected on Tuesday next that Sir Thomas Osborne will be Lord Viscount Leeds or Latimer, and take up the Staff, and my Lord Treasurer will retire to Devon. Some say his Lordship will be there soe private as to mind nothing but bookes and a retired life; and yett some have made him in their discourses Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, others Lord Generall of the army, and others a volunteer to goe with the Duke of Yorke.

Mr. Speaker, as all conclude, will be Treasurer of the Navy, and that Sir Thomas Meeres² will succeede him. Sir Thomas Strickland and Mr. Miller have pentions of 400*l.* a yeare a peece, since their leaving the Privy Seale; but Sir Ed. Dering³ nothing; his friends say he is reserved for some employment that may signify more, which his relations desire to see.

His Majesty and R. H. returned this day from the Navy, which is refitting as fast as may be; some say they may require a fortnight's time to be in order. His R. H. proposed at Councill a draught of instructions for a Lord High Admirall, which it seems were before wanting, and they were approoved off.

Upon debate that many of our sea officers are in trouble that they cannot come to performe what the law requires from them as to swearing, 'tis agreed that if they doe it in Michaelmas Terme when the fleete comes in, the law will be satisfyed, it being impossible for them in this conjuncture to desert their shippes and performe it according to the precise time the law requires, &c.

¹ See note on H. Ball's letter of June 6, p. 25.

² Sir Thomas Meres was member for Lincoln.

³ Sir E. Dering was a Commissioner of the Treasury, from March 1679 to July 1684.

I begg your Excellencies pardon that I am noe better stored for your entertainment. But noe man has more zealous wishes for the encrease of your fame by the publicke successe then, my Lords,

Your Excellencies most affect. and most humble servant,

ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

Pray tell my brother Williamson¹ that I wish him the box of wax candles which by the last shippes come to him, in token from Frank Parry, and are now at my house.

NO. 18.—FROM LORD O'BRIEN.

My Lord,

London, June 13th, 1673.

This is the second letter I have writt you since I arrived heere, and hope that by this time you are arrived safe at Cologne, from whence God graunt us the comfortable news of a speedy happy peace! Heere is little of news stirring since our fleete came in, and sure I am you have that from the fountaine heade which wee poore decrepidd merchaunts² know nott of. I thank God our family is in pretty good health; my wife is drinking North Hall waters, which Dr. Willis hopes will cure the distemper of her heade; wee all are (with true respect) your humble servaunts. I intend within 10 or 14 days for Irelaund, and I pray lett Tom Fayrfax or Overbury whenever a true face of P.³ shews its self, have notice to send mee a line before itt bee knowne to others, the advantadge of which will be worth a barrell of Usquebagh to the Clubb, in November next. I send all my letters under your man Yard's conveyance, and I pray, whenever you have anny commaunds for mee, lett them come under covertt to him, whoe I am sure will have care to forward them to mee. God send you health, and that you may with

¹ Sir R. Southwell and Williamson were joint Clerks of the Privy Council.

² Lord O'Brien was a member of the Clothworkers' Company with Williamson.

³ Peace.

success accomplish this voyage, for which (believe mee) you have
the hearty prayers of (my Lord)

Your most oblidged friend and servaunt,

O'BRIEN.

I pray my service to your brother Jenkins, as also to Capt.
Fayrfax, considering Luke Weekes and Walt. Overbury.

R June 26.
July 6.

NO. 19.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 13 June, 1673.

Wee wonder very much that these three posts have not brought
any letters from your Excellency; my Lord suspects foule play on
the other side of the water, and therefore has thought of appointing
4 or 5 couriers or more, who shall be constantly passing to and fro
with dispatches to and from your Excellency.

This morning the King returned from the fleet, whither he went
on Wednesday. It seems a great many of our ships are disabled in
their masts and must have new, the doing of which, and other
things, will take up 10 or 14 days. Concerning the enemies losse in
the last engagement, wee have as yet no other account but what is
published; ours was greater then in the first fight, and the generall
calculation is that 1,200 men were killed and made incapable of
service, and some of our ships very much torne, and particularly
the Prince, Sir Edward Sprag's ship, who at her first comeing in
was thought incapable of being gott ready to goe to sea againe with
the fleet, but they have been so diligent at worke upon her, that
she will be soone ready. The enemy did us most of this damage
whilst they kept at distance, which they did all the latter part of
the day, to that degree, that our guns did hardly reach them, and
besides the sea went so high that most of our ships could not carry
their lower tire. Sir Charles Littleton, who was on bord Sir Ed.

Sprag, said yesterday, in my hearing, that Sir Edward used commonly every meal to drink Tromp's health till this last fight, when it seems he did not act with that bravery he used to doe; for at the beginning of the fight, Sir Edward and he both leadeing the van of the two fleets, and Sir Edward being a'head of him, he fired a single gun as a challenge to stay for him, which Sir Edward accordingly did, expecting to have fought it hand to fist bravely, but being come up with him, Tromp sprang his loof¹ and kept the whole day at a very great distance; at which Sir Edward was so angry, that he would never drink his health afterwards, and he had no reason, for at that distance he lost a great many more men then he did the time before when they fought near. However, it is very certaine, whatever the Dutch may brag, that neither wee or the French have lost one ship in either of the engagements.

Towards the latter end of the next week all the forces will be upon Blackheath; there are at present 5 regiments, in all there will be 12, consisting of 1,000 men apiece compleat, besides officers, for the 8 last raised regiments are made up to 100 men in each company; these togeather with the forces already on bord will make up a body of 18,000 men; and I am told that these last raised men are already in as good order and discipline as if they had been long on foot. Who are to be the Generall Officers I cannot find that it is yet certainly knowne; hitherto it hath been said that the Duke would goe in person, the Duke of Bucks. Lt. Generall, and Collonell Fitzgerald, Major Generall; now I an assured that there will be two or three Lieut^{nts} Generalls and Major Generalls; for the former they name Mons^r Scomberg,² who is comeing over, and my Lord

¹ *Spring his loof*, "from going large, clap close by the wind." Coles's Dictionary, 1696.

² Schomberg, son of Count Schomberg, a German, by an English lady, was born in 1615. He entered the French service in 1650: he was a pious Protestant. Passing through England on his way to Lisbon soon after the Restoration, he advised Charles II. to set up for the head of the Protestant religion, and not to sell Dunkirk. Not pleased now with his treatment in England, he returned home to France, and

Treasurer, and for the latter, my Lord John Berkeley;¹ and this afternoon I was told by a sober person that the Duke will not goe, but that Prince Rupert will have the title of Generall, and Monsieur Seomberg command the army with the title of Lieut. Generall, and next to him the Duke of Bucks.; but it seems these things are not yet certainly determined. This afternoone wee received an expresse from Alborough, which says, that yesterday in the afternoon a squadron of 20 Dutch men of war appeared off that place standing southward.

Immediately after the generall muster, which it is thought will be this day 7 night, the forces will imbarke, all things being ready; upon Blackheath they have all little tents, and make a very fine show.

Enclosed I send your Ex^{cy} the Inland extracts, and a short account of what of moment passed the Councell. If by these my endeavours I can render my service acceptable to your Ex^{cy} I have my reward, and shall ever think it my greatest happiness to be as I am, with all duty,

Y^r Ex^{cy}s most faithfull and obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R^x June 26.
July 6.

NO. 20.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 13th, 1673.

Wee have heard nothing from your Excellency since your leaving Antwerpe, which Mr. Richards sayes my Lord much wonders att, and sayes they must needs stopp the letters in Flanders, which if

afterwards left France on account of the persecution of Protestants. He came over to England from Prussia with the Prince of Orange in 1688, and was then made Commander in Chief of the English forces. He was made an English Duke.

¹ John Lord Berkeley of Stratton was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from June 1671 to August 1672, when succeeded by the Earl of Essex. He died in 1678.

soe, he feares your Excellency will be forced to send expresses as often as you write, or else none will come in any time. In obedience to your Excellency's commands I constantly write what I can heare, and hope your Excellency is pleased to pardon whatever in them haps amiss.

This morning his Majesty and Royall Highness returned from the fleate, very well satisfied with their condition, and hopes they will be out in 14 dayes att furthest, 30 sayle being now ready; they have been much prejudiced this last engagement, farr more then the former, in their hulls and men, of which there were many killed, and the wounded dye dayly. His Highness the Prince, they say, stormes extreemely att the want of provision that they had, and declares he shall never thrive att sea till some are hanged att land; the King sayd merrily, the day before he went to see him, that he must expect a chideing but had sweetned him by letter all he could; the people in the Towne blame our want of conduct (as they call the accidents of warr), and say, if the Duke had been there, they believe things had gone better, and all the ordinary people will have it that wee were beaten, the roguish seamen writing so to their friends, which letters appeare in some coffee houses, and does much prejudice in dishearteing the people. They press very much all this weeke, and have not left 500 watermen, old and young, on the Thames. Att noone this day came an express from Alborough, and sayes, that yesterday morning 20 of the Dutch fleete appeared off that coast, standing southward, but where the gross of their fleete was, wee yett heare not; that they will for some time brush about the coast and freighten the countrey; notice of it was att 4 sent to the Prince and the fleete; one of the letters from a soldier aboard the St. Michaell sayes the French have lost two ships in all, and very many men; there is a strickt press out for French seamen upon notice that divers of them, to avoide the service att home, have tooke pay aboard English merchants men, which are, therefore, by the King's order, permitted to be searcht for them.

Att the Signett Office, I find since, a warrant for 5,000*l.* without account, free guift to the Lord Viscount Grandison.¹

Another for 2,120*l.* of the like nature, to the Earle of Bristoll.

2,000*l.* per annum dureing his Majesty's pleasure, without account, to Sir Stephen Fox, to be imployed for his Majesty's service.

10,000*l.* to Philip Packer, Esq^{re}, upon account to be imployed for the finishing the buildings att Greenwich House, and for laying the foundation of another part of the same.

6,064*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* to Sir Robert Vyner, in satisfaction of divers chaines and meddalls, and gilt and white plate, delivered into the Jewell House.

4,750*l.* to William, Earle of Kenoule, in satisfaction of the arreares of severall annuities of 500*l.* and 1,000*l.* per annum, out of the duty of 4 and a halfe per cent. att Barbadoes, and for surrendring his right in the Caribbee Islands.

2,000*l.* per annum added to the 6,000*l.* per annum of the pension of the Duke of Monmouth, with a clause of 4,000*l.* per annum to his Lady if shee out live him, and the same to the young Earle of Doncaster and Dalkeith after their decease.

The manors of Somersham, and five others in Huntingdonshire, granted in reversion, and the inheritance thereof, to my Lord Grandison and Edward Villiers, Esq^{re}, to them and their heires.²

The office in reversion after the present possessor of Searcher of Plymouth to Mr. Fryer, formerly my Lord Treasurer's page, now his Gentleman, for his life.

This day, at the King's Bench barr, was one Brown tryed for his life for stealing away an heiress worth 6,000*l.* a girle of 11 yeares old; he was formerly an ostler, but marrying an old woman was gott somewhat higher, and so left her and went and gott this young gentlewoman from her friends, and to make him marry her threat-

¹ For the Duchess of Cleveland, his niece.

² For the Duchess of Cleveland, their niece.

ened her with a pistoll; and when he had marryed her, shee keeping him from bedding her 2 dayes, till shee gave her freinds notice where shee was, they came and fetcht her away; and seized him, and indicted him for felony, of which he was found guilty this morning, his other wife appearing against him, and is to-morrow to be condemned; a caveat is entred att the Signett that no pardon pass for him, till the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen be heard, the girle being a daughter of a cittizen.

An intention was this weeke discovered of some bookesellers to print in a booke the names of all those that have taken the Sacrament and oaths, which, being a factious intention to distinguish them (as they called it) from the troublers of Israel, my Lord Arlington has told Mr. L'Estrange 'tis the King's pleasure itt should be suppress.

The Earle Marshall this next weeke commissionates my Lord of Carlisle¹ to be his deputy in that office. The Earle of Anglesey on Wednesday made his report to his Majesty what he thought was fitt to be done in the difference between my Lord Marshall and Sir Edward Walker, upon which the King gave it to my Lord to draw up the King's pleasure in it; but, as yet, Sir Edward has not seen it or known how farr itt is in his favour. The whole office was never more out of order, so great a reformation is intended, before the doing of which, all must be pulld in peices. Sir Edward Bishe is quite ruined by this order, for he, having erred, cannot doe what they require of him, which is the compleating his visitations, so they talke of turning him out and the King to allow him 200*l.* per annum, for which they have a president in Sir William Segar. Sir Edward Walker declares he will sell his place and retire, and Sir Thomas St. George has an eye towards it.

My Lord Treasurer continues to prepaire for his quitting that office, and all say it will be performed by commissioners for some time.

A fierce quarrell has been lately between the Earle of Mulgrave and Mr. Henry Jermyn about a triphile of a word; upon which they

¹ Charles Howard, Earl of Carlisle.

proceeded to a challenge, but the King has tooke up the business. Another happened also in the Temple between the Earle of Manchester and the Earle of Sandwich¹ about the keeping of the swanns; upon which they drew, and made a pass or two, but only a scratch on the arme of the latter ended it.

On Wednesday last my Lord Duke of Buckingham returned from Yorkeshire, where he has had much trouble to raise 600 men to recruite his regiment.

The day for the generall muster att Blackheath is now putt off till Wednesday next, for still there is but the Earle of Mulgrave and the Marquis of Worcester's regiments there. The King has declared, to prevent the officers cozening him, he will allow 10 dead payes to each company, to be given among the officers, after which whoever has not compleate 100 alwayes together shall sufferr the law. The military orders are now printed, and they will erect a court marshall. Monsieur Schomberg is to be either Lieutenant Generall or Major Generall, I suppose the latter, for the Duke of Buckes continues his preparations for the voyage, and the guards are drawne out for his Royall Highnesses guard, etc. All the reformed Irish Roman Catholiques attend him, among them principally Colonell Talbott.

The Countess of Northumberland² is extraordinary gallant, so that the people say his Royal Highness is to marry her, and that shee, seeing the other fayle, came home on purpose to receive the motion, and it's much liked by all the people and his Royall Highnesse's servants.

This day att Councell Sir Robert Shirley was convened upon a complaint of a Nonconformist att Ashby de la Zouch for disturbing their meeting, but that Mr. Yard will tell your Excellency better,

¹ The Earls of Manchester and Sandwich were kinsmen. Lord Sandwich (Edward Montagu) was son of Sir Sydney Montagu, Master of Requests to James I. Lord Manchester (Robert, third Earl) was grandson of Sir Henry Montagu, created Earl of Manchester, brother of Sir Sydney.

² Widow of Josceline, eleventh Earl of Northumberland, whom she had married in 1662, and who had died in May, 1670. She was daughter of the Earl of Southampton, the Lord High Treasurer. She afterwards married Ralph Montagu, who was ultimately created Duke of Montagu.

and I feare I have been too long scribbling. I most humbly beg your Excellency to believe I will most faithfully be, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R June 26.
July 6.

No. 21.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 16 June, 1673.

Whilst the fleet is refitting at the buoy of the Nore, most of the chief commanders are come up for a day or two; on Saturday morning the Prince came to towne, and will goe againe downe to-morrow; I am assured by some that know, that our fleet will be in a posture to sail againe sooner then is expected.

Since my last to your Excellency, it hath been declared that his Royall Highnesse will goe to sea in Sir Edward Sprag's ship, and that the Prince shall be Admirall of the Blew; but the great question undecided, is, whether the Duke will onely continue at sea till such time as he shall have an oppertunity to land with our forces (and in this case while he is at sea, he must be Admirall), or whether the Prince will land, and the Duke remaine at sea, or whether either of them will land, leaveing the command of the army to Monsieur Scomberg and the Duke of Bucks, who will be the Lieutenant Generalls; I dare not venture to write the discourse of the Towne upon this occasion, but it is according to their old rate, never satisfied.

The forces continue to march towards Black heath, where they will be all together towards the latter end of this week; this day sevensnight, it is thought, will be the generall rendezvous; wee cannot yet learne who are the Major Generalls, they still talke of my Lord John Berkeley to be one.

On Wednesday next, wee are told, my Lord Treasurer will resigne his place; the generall discourse is that Sir Thomas Osborne will

succeed him; others speak yet of Commiss^{rs}, so that wee are still in the dark as to the truth of either. All the discourse this morning above stairs was of the Duke's haveing ytsterday after the Cabinett Councell resigned his severall places and commands, and that a new Commission is to passe constituteing him Admirall and Generalissimo for this expedition. The Earl of Ossory is made, as I am told, Vice Admirall of the Red.

It is generally thought here at Court that the Dutch, flattering themselves (as wee find they doe, though without any ground) with a belief that they have had the advantage at sea, will begin to stand somewhat more upon their termes, and render the treaty very difficult if not ineffectuall, my Lord saying this morneing that by this meanes they would bely themselves into their owne mine. Enclosed I presume to send your Excellency what news wee received yesterday from Italy, and the Inland extracts.

By the last post, which came in on Saturday, my Lord received a letter from your Excellency from Cologne. I humbly beg your Excellency will please to direct Mr. Benson to give us a constant account of what your Excellency thinks fitt to have made publicke, for people here are very curious, and think it our fault that wee doe not speak more of your Excellency's motions then wee doe.

I humbly commend my selfe to your Excellency's protection, and am with all duty and respect, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most faithfull, most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R. ^{25 June.}
6 July.

NO. 22.— FROM JOHN SWADDELL.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 16th, 1673.

I have foreborne to give your Excellency this trouble untill I had heard of your safe arrivall with your traine att Cologne, and I hope (as I most humbly beg of your Excellency to beleve) that this forbearance may not be interpreted to my disadvantage, either out

of want of that duty I owe, or otherwise mispending my time since you went hence, which I hope with your Lordship's favour may be better evidenced by the impertinent troubles I shall give you for the future.

My Lord, the office stands as you left it, and all your commands relating to my selfe obeyed in every particular, no difficulty in any kinde appearing that discourages from the obeying them but your Excellency's absence.

I must presume with all humility to trouble your Excellency with relation to my self, which is, that Sir Thomas Chichley¹ going on this expedition, and Captain Sherburne, Clerke of the Ordnance, being unable through his age and infirmities to attend the traine of artillery in his station, some people that wish mee well, advise mee to offer my service to Sir Thomas Chichley, that although I am not actually an officer there, yet it may be proper to be neare him, and consequently render my selfe sooner capable of that employment; I humbly beg of your Excellency to beleieve that this is not a whimsy of my owne, or to send mee further from your Excellency's service, nor can I do any thing in it till I have obtained your Excellency's commands and allowance for it.

Having acknowledged your Excellency's bounty and goodnesse to mee, I have nothing more to trouble you with then my prayers for your increase of honour and happinesse, and that this great worke you are going upon may succeed to your Excellency's perpetuall honour and advantage, and that y^r Lordship may long live to have a good share of it, which is the most hearty and earnest prayers of, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient and gratefull servant,

JO. SWADDELL.

R^{26 June.}
6 July.

¹ Sir Thomas Chichley, Knight, M. P. for Cambridgeshire, was one of the Commissioners of Ordnance. He was married to Lady Savile, the widowed mother of George Savile, Lord Halifax.

No. 23.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 16, 1673.

As yet wee have received nothing from your Excellency, but my Lord one, the other day. The Towne have damned the peace already, and will have your Excellency doe nothing, the Dutch being so high upon their pretended victory. The Harelem and Amsterdam Gazetts are so publique here, that sober men feare the truth of something they say, as indeed our killed and wounded men are 1,000. Sir Edward Spragge is come up, as also the Earle of Ossory, who is made Vice Admirall of the Blew. His Highness told my Lord Carlisle he went againe to-morrow to the fleete, though others say the Duke and he will goe together, the first to command att sea, the latter att land, for which Mons^r Scomberg is joyned with the Duke of Buckes as Lieutenants Generalls, and my Lord John Berkeley of Stratton and Sir Thomas Morgan to be Majors Generalls. The Duke did, they say, yesterday make a formalle resignation of all his offices, the instruments of which, prepared by Mr. Offley, and brought into the office last night, when it's said 'twas done, and this I was told by one that pretends to be some part an eye-witness. On Wednesday my Lord Treasurer certainly resignes, and to-morrow att a private Committee his successor or successors named; most say Com^{rs}, and Judge Millward joyned with those formerly named to be the persons. I heare every one give my Lord Treasurer the repute of an exact honest man, and uncorrupted.

The great disputes in the Herald's Office are nothing nigh ending for my Lord Marshall, upon the Earle of Anglesey's declaring his opinion in his favour that nothing ought to be done by Garter but by his directions, has gott his Majesty to give order for new powers to be granted him, but comformable to ancient precedents, for his government of the Heralds' Office; and has procured an order for a proclamation to issue for all Knights Batchellors to register themselves, or else to loose their place and

precedency. Poor Sir Edward Bishe continues still suspended, though he has made great application to my Lord to heare his plea, and to accept of his amendment.

To-morrow, Browne that stole the heiress, a citty orphan, is to be executed in Southwarke, the Citty haveing petitioned that no pardon might be granted him, which the Town thinks a severe course, though he has been a person of a very loose life.

I most humbly beg your Excellency's pardon for these small remarkes, beeing in most humble manner tendered by him that will to the utmost date of his life acknowledg your Excellency's favours by beeing, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient sert,

HENRY BALL.

R ^{June 26.}
_{July 6}

NO. 24.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 20 June, 1673.

In my last I acquainted your Excellency that his Royall Highnesse had laid downe his severall commissions, and am now to tell your Excellency that the place of High Admirall of England is to be managed by Commissioners, which are all the Lords of the Cabinet Councell; and to this commission Mr. Pepys is appointed secretary. I was this day told by a servant of the Duke's that his commission, constituteing him Admirall and Generalissimo for this expedition does not proceed, which occasions a question, if his Royall Highnesse does not goe in person, who shall command our army, and some answer Monsieur Scomberg, who is dayly expected from the French camp, but this I onely write your Excellency as the discourse of some particular persons. The Duke hath not since his surrender been at Councell; in the mean time, the people will not forbear discourseing their opinions on this occasion, and that very freely. Yesterday morning my Lord Clifford resigned

his staffe, which his Majestie at the same time gave to Sir Thomas Osborne; to the title of Lord High Treasurer of England others are to be added, as Earle of Leigh or Viscount Latimer, &c. It is said that my Lord Clifford is to receive 20,000*l.* presently, and 4,000*l.* a year as long as Sir Thomas Osborne enjoys the place; whether these particulars be true I know not, but it is certaine my Lord has a considerable gratification for this surrender.

The Duke of Ormond is called againe to the Cabinett Councell. Yesterday the King, Duke, Prince,¹ and the Count D'Estrees² dined at Clarendon House, and that afternoone wee had a meeting, when the Duke of Ormond was present.

The Prince is still in towne, but will not stay long, it being said he will returne to-morrow to the fleet, which begins now to be in good forwardnesse to saile againe, which wee hope will be very suddainely. There goes a story about towne that the Prince at his first coming to towne, when the Comm^{rs} of the Navy came to waite upon him, fell into such a passion against them, that he had like to have made use of his cane upon some of them, and it is reported he did; certaine it is he was very angry with them for not haveing taken better care to supply the fleet with necessaries.

Wee have had severall reports of the Dutche fleet being on our coast, and in the Gun fleet, which, though very false, yet was readily believed by those who would not believe that the Dutch were so paid off in the last engagement as was reported, and they really were, and indeed wee every day find their losse to have been greater, especially in men, so that they will not without much difficulty be able to recruite their ships. Wee want our last Friday's letters from Holland and Flanders, so that wee are somewhat ignorant of what hath lately happened in those parts.

There are at present at Blackheath 7,000 men, in all there are to be 10,000; the whole body will be compleate there the next week, together with their artillery, to which force is to be added 8,000

¹ Prince Rupert.

² The Count D'Estrées was the French Admiral of the joint fleet.

Scots, and when they are landed on the other side of the water, a body of French horse, some speak of 6,000.

Sir Robert Howard¹ continues still Secretary to the Lord Treasurer, and Sir John Woerden, it is said, is made one of the Commissioners of the Navy, and Mr. Speaker Treasurer of the Navy.

Enclosed I send your Excellency the Inland extracts, and the Minutes of the Councell; the onely thing of moment is in the former, and that is the arrivall of Monsieur Martell to reinforce the French squadron.

I must againe beg your Excellency will be pleased that Mr. Benson communicate to us all the publicke passages of the Congress, for wee want them much to satisfy the world.

I humbly am, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R June 26.
July 6.

NO. 25.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 20th, 1673.

When I have made my Lord's acknowledgments of your Excellency's dispatches by Mr. Ellis (who arrived here yesterday), and his excuses for not writing him selfe, his Lordship intending to make you a like returne by the same or another person in a day or two, I must hasten to owne the honour of your Excellency's of the 10th by the same hand, and, with it, beg leave to acquaint your Excellency with our great changes here. My last told you what

¹ Sir Robert Howard, a younger son of the Earl of Berkshire, was M.P. for Stockbridge; soon Auditor of the Exchequer. He was a poet and playwright, Dryden married his sister. Marvell gives a bad account of him: "Auditor of the Receipts of the Exchequer, worth 3,000*l.* per annum; many great places and boons he has had, but his whore Uphill spends all, and now refuses to marry him." Evelyn calls him an universal pretender. Shadwell brought him on the stage as "Sir Positive Atall." He died in 1698, at the age of 72.

his Royall Highnesse had done; there are now Commissioners appointing to execute the office of Admiralty and Warden of the Cinq Ports, whom Mr. Pepys is to attend as Secretary; Sir John Werden follows his Royall Highness, and is made a Commissioner of the Navy. His Highnesse Prince Rupert is made Admirall for this expedition, and, haveing beene now a week in towne, returnes to-morrow morning early to the fleet to hasten it out; it is already in great forwardnesse, and Monsieur Martel being arrived with three fresh men of war, and a fire-ship or two, for the recruite of the French squadron, it is not doubted but a very few daies will set all to sea. The Dutch packets are detained, soe that wee heare little of their motions, but some letters from Flanders speake them to bee in great distraction and want of men, but this you know sooner and surer then wee possibly can.

I now returne to acquaint your Excellency with another great piece of news; my Lord Clifford hath really parted with his staffe yesterday in the morning, which was immediately given to Sir Thomas Osborne, for whom great titles and honours are now preparing. Sir Robert Howard continues with him, and Mr. Seymour succedes him, Sir T. O., in the Treasurership of the Navy.

By the beginning of the next week all the regiments will be drawn together at Blackheath, where foure or five encampe at present.

My Lord Ossory returnes to sea with the Prince, and cannot bee persuaded out of it. I am ever with all devotion, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most humble and most obedient servant,

JO: RICHARDS.

R ^{June 26.}
_{July 6.}

NO. 26.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 20, 1673.

Yesterday by Mr. Ellis wee received letters from your Excellency of the 14th instant, the first since those from Antwerpe. Wayting upon Sir Robert Carr this morning, hee commanded me to

acquaint your Excellency with the health of all his family, and that he had writt to your Excellency this post had there been any good newes to tell you, but desired to be remembered by your Excellency when any oportunity served.

All att your Excellencies house are well, and not the least disturbance happened in the neighbourhood, the centinells coming very punctually.

Yesterday morning my Lord Treasurer Clifford went to wayte upon his Majesty in the Bed Chamber, where attended Sir Thomas Osborne and some few Lords. My Lord, after a very handsome acknowledgment of his Majestyes great favours to him, resigned the Staffe to his Majesty, who gave it presently to Sir Thomas Osborne, and so departed home, and has not appeared abroad since, though there is great wayting to see his Lordship after this great change. He marryed his second daughter on Tuesday to Sir Samuell Leech,¹ a person of good estate, which they say he choose not for his fortune, so much as piety and fitting his humour. His Lordship they say goes suddainly into the country and wholly retires, and Sir Thomas Osborne (now makeing Viscount Lattimer and Baron Leeds) comes to dwell att Wallingford House. Great is the talke of the Towne upon these suddain alterations, especially of his Royall Highness's laying downe, the generallity of people being so bold as to say he must not thinke to have the favour of England if he professes openly a Roman Catholicke; nay, further, that his Majesty must not make him Commander of his forces, which is of great moment, etc., with many other such rude and barbarous talke.

The sight of the new establishment of the Admiralty I cannot yett gett, nor is it come to the Signett, but I heare it is to be to this purpose: the commissioners of it, Prince Rupert, Dukes of Buckingham, Lauderdale, and Ormond, Lords Chancellor and Treasurer, two secretaries, Sir George Carterett and Mr. Seymour now treasurer of the navy, Mr. Pepys to be secretary to them, and Sir John Werden made a commissioner of the navy.

¹ Sir Simon Leech, K.B. of Cadleigh, co. Devon.

On Monday last happened a strong ryott att Gray's Inn, where the gentlemen, pumping some bayliffes that attempted to take goods out of Fuller's Rents upon an execution, were that day charged with a body of 30 lusty bayliffes, with my Lord Chief Justice Hale's warrant to raffe the house of those 6 gentlemen that were guilty of the fact, but the gentlemen getting together, att first were driven back by the bayliffes into the Inn, but makeing a fresh charge with above 100 swords naked, beate the bayliffes horribly and wounded 21 of them, some dangerous and mortall, of which one is dead this day, and others believed will; 12 of the gentlemen are also much hurt. My Lord Chief Justice Hales is very angry and threatens high, though all the standers by and people blame my Lord for granting such a warrant, which he knew never was or could be executed, and to such a mutinous number of rude fellowes. Some soldiers came into the fray and fought on either side, and did most hurt. The business is like to proceed very high, and a great breach between the grave Bench and that house. On Wednesday was a meeting of the Judges for its examination, but what further has happened I know not.

Prince Rupert and the sea officers goe down most of them this day. His Highness itt seemes would not goe again except he had a new commission for Admirall without restriction, which now he has; the heads of which is to be Admirall of the fleete for this expedition, to follow all orders of his Majestyes, all officers, soldiers and ministers whatsoever concerned therein to obey him, all full power to putt in or displace any commander or officers whatsoever, which is the point he aimes att, to doe his worke by complaining much of divers persons not doing their duty, and people talke privately of some new distasts between him and Sir Edward Spragge, which they feare may spoyle all.

On Wednesday the Towne were allaramed att a false report of the Dutch comeing into the Gun fleete, which because it happened when all our officers were ashore, the people were mutinying almost, saying, "Just so it happened in Chattham business, and soe wee

thrive,"—but it proved a lye. Since which, wee report our selves that the Dutch have putt out a hue and crye profering a reward for the discovery of the English fleete, and that they are fishing most impudently on our coast with a squadron to guard them, but that too is false I suppose, for I see nothing of it by any letters; but such storyes among the rabble does very ill, and makes the prest men grumble as they pass the streets, and the people pitty them.

Mr. Henry Brouncker was on Wednesday last sworne Cofferer extraordinary, but into present wayting and attendance, and will then say buy out Mr. Ashburnham.

On Wednesday last dyed in the Citty Sir John Smith an Alderman and a Salter; he is dead worth above 100,000*l.*, some say 140,000*l.*; he is to have a publique funerall. The troubles in the Heralds' office are not yet composed. Sir Edward Walker so dissatisfyed as to give out he will sell his place. My Lord Marshall has gott his Majestye to signify his power and priviledges, and it is to this effect, that Sir Edward Walker, claiming to himselfe a power to grant armes without the order or approbation of the Earle Marshall, and upon the report of the Lord Privy Seale that his pretence thereto was frivolous and groundless, his Majestye declares that the Earle being the principall officer in those affaires shall have the sole power and ordering of all armes and armory both of the nobility and gentry, and to prescribe rules and lawes for the government of the Heralds' office, and more especially for limiting the authority of the Kings of armes in granting armes, and to direct and order them therein, and for makeing their visitations, and for the deportment and demeanor of them and the rest of the officers, as also to nominate all officers for supplying vacant places, and punish and correct the officers as he shall see cause; and no grant of armes to be made but by order of the Earle Marshall or his deputy, and all the office to yeeld full obedience to him in every thing. His Lordship has a Privy Seale wherein his Majestye permitts him to make deputies from time to time, as he shall see cause, the

Marquisses of Worcester and Dorchester, the Earles of Bedford, Suffolke, Peterborough, Carlisle, and Alesbury; but the Earle of Carlisle to be the present deputy, and to carry the Staffe.

Captain George Legge is made Governor of Portesmouth, with the same powers as his Royall Highness. Who shall be Lords Wardens I heare not, but suppose the same as execute the Admiralty.

I cannot heare when the generall review will be att Blackheath, because there is yet but 5 regiments there. The soldiers are to goe in colliers hyred for that purpose, 500 in a ship. The young gentry strive much to goe with the Duke, if he goes, the certainty of which I heare not, and the flower of the nobility will personally be in action.

In the Signett has happened these few things: 2,000*l.* per annum the Earle and Countess of Oxford dureing their lives; Gyles Lytcott, Esq^{re}, made Comptroller-Generall of the accounts of the Customes, to account but once a yeare, with additionall sallery of 100*l.* per annum to the 400*l.*, and himselfe and servants to be free from publique offices; the same for Richard Mountney, Esq^{re}, Receiver Generall and Casheer of the Customes; 12,000*l.* per annum to Mr. Packer on account for the ordinary expence of his Majestyes house; a discharge of 1,503*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* (which William Merson, head collector of the 11th months tax of Devonshire, run away with all 3 years since,) to Sir Tho: Carew; 400*l.* to Mr. Ashmoyle to print his booke of the Garter again; Mathew Humerston, Esq^{re}, Usher of the Custome House in London, in reversion after John Hallesey, fee 6*l.* per annum; Peregrine Clerke to have a messuage in Wapping; Sir Robert Holmes, pension of 500*l.* per annum from Midsomer, and 600*l.* per annum in quitt rents, which in the Isle of Wight made choise of by him; 11,289*l.* to the Countess of Falmouth without account, in consideration of the surrender of Grafton Parke, etc. which his Majesty has been pleased to settle on the Earle of Arlington and Earle of Euston after her Majestyes death; 2,000*l.* per annum to the Earle of Arlington, and Earle of Euston after his decease, out of the Customes.

Before I finisht this, I wayted on my Lady O'Bryen to know her commands, who gave me the inclosed for your Excellency, the superscription of which shee bid me tell you, if it was not right, shee would mend the next time shee troubled your Excellency.

The fellow that stole the heiress was hanged on Tuesday att St. Thomas Waterings, and could gett no pardon or reprieve, though the King by chance went by, and was told 'twas the custome then to reprieve att least, but the Citty petition weighed down that consideration; he was cast by a statute of the 3d of H. 7.

I am in all humility, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R June 26.
July 6.

NO. 27.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

My Lords,

20 June, 1673.

My last inclosed to your Excellencies the articles with Guyland, but the papers which accompany this are upon a more melancholy occasion. His Royall Highness has thought fitt to surrender all his charges and imployments, and the enclosed proclamation is for the direction of such as acted by his comissions; butt this proclamation is not to be printed, and only to passe the Great Seale, with copyes thereof to such as are concerned therein, if they please. For these 2 last Councill dayes his R. H. has not beene there, and he this day, sending for me, bid that the messengers warne him noe more (as this morning they did, all the terme being done), nor to write his name in the present, nor any where else since the 15. of this month, that soe (sayd he, smiling) you draw me not into a snare. He was advised that, on the laying downe the Comission of the Admiralty, he might assume another as Generallissimo, and was intent thereon; but now, being advised to the contrary, many seeme surprised, and

every thing seemes to end in silence, or, I might rather say, consternation, to all that honour his R. person and vertues, to see how he has thought fitt to withdraw himselfe from all things.

This day sen'night he proposed at Councill a scheme of instructions for a Lord High Admirall, which before were wanting, and those now are transferred to the Commissioners of the Admiralty, who are the Prince, the 3 greate officers of State, the 3 Dukes, 2 secretaries, Sir G. Carteret and Mr. Seymour, and Mr. Pepys as secretary. Sir J. Werden is made Commissioner of the Navy in Mr. Seymour's place.

My Lord Clifford gave up his staff on Wenesday morning, and since forbeares the Councill. Till Tuesday night there was, for many dayes before, whole throngs of people of all qualities attending at all houres; the next day all as sylent as in a convent. His Lordshipp will ere long retire to Devonshire, and his Lady and family goe away on Monday.

This Lord Treasurer is at present Viscount Osborne, a Scotch title.¹ He will in a month be at Wallingford House, and in the interim is at Hambden House. My Lord Clifford laboured excessively in his office to lay all things in good order, and, indeed, satisfyed all manner of persons as far as it was possible at the closure.

My Lord of Ormond is called to the juncto, as I am assured, and his Majesty is pleased to shew him much favour, and his Royall Highness promotes it.

Orders are signed for all that is due to the officers relating to prizes, untill our Lady day last, but noe body yett knowes where to find money.

We talke here equally of war and peace; your Excellency's good

¹ Osborne must be a mistake for Dunblaine; as also in p. 62. This Scotch title of Dunblaine was first given, and Latimer in the English peerage a little later. He was made in August Baron Kiveton and Viscount Latimer. He was raised to be Earl of Danby in the following year, June 27, 1674. He is called Lord Dunblaine in a later letter, p. 77.

event, and the fate of Mastric, are the common theme. I am ever with all respect and affection, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most obedient ser^t,

R ^{June 26.}
_{July 6.}

R(OBERT) S(OUTHWELL).

No. 28.—FROM J. ROSSE.¹

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 21, 1673.

Had I knowne before this where you were fixed, I had bin more early in my hearty gratulation of your safe arrivall att Cologne, where I hope your success will answere the good wishes of your friends.

Since your Excellency's departure wee [have] bin dayly in expectation of great turns both at home and abroad; the latter still continues, and wee are to looke for the issue of our hopes when the Prince is gone out again, which is expected about the latter end of the next weeke, the fleet being refitted and well supplied with all things necessary, and the Prince made Admirall by a new commission from his Majesty, who hath now committed the care of his navall affaires to eleven Commissioners, viz. the two Secretaries of State, Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seale, Lord Treasurer (now Sir Thomas Osborne), the Speaker (who is now Treasurer of the navy), Duke of Ormond, Duke of Lauderdale, Vice Chamberlaine,² the other two I have forgot, his Royall Highnesse having devested himself (to the very great trouble of all good men) of all command both by sea and land, and all his Catholique servants given up their employments.

On Wensday last my Lord Clifford gave up his staffe with great chearfulness and constancy of countenance, whatever was his complexion within, and the act is noe less the wounder then regret of his friends, none but those of his most intimate believeing it would bee, till it was done. Since that, both his Royall Highnesse and himselfe have absented themselves from Counsell, and, were you amongst us, you would heare things which I dare not write; but,

¹ Rosse had been tutor to the Duke of Monmouth, and was King's Librarian.

² Sir George Carteret, Bart. See note, p. 59.

in short, there are stiffe Caballs in order to impeachments against the next Session of Parliament, when some that you have formerly loved (as I believe) resolve to begin with my Lord Arlington, who hath (I thinke) the advantage of sticking close to the Act (which hath caused much of this), and his adversary (who labours his ends with great vehemency among the members) though hee should have his ends, must bee branded with the odious title of ingratefull,¹ to a person to whom he owes his being what hee is.

The Duke of Ormond is now of the Cabinet, and that side seemes now uppermost, though the other² carryed it for the present Lord Treasurer, who it's thought will not be much at ease in his employment, considering the great necessities of his office, which nothing but a good peace (which I hope you will bring us) can supply.

Our army upon the heath are not yet above 6,000 men encamped upon Blackheath, but the regiments are upon their march to make up the number designed.

His Grace of Bucks hath taken great pains, and the Sacrament almost in all the churches of his Lieutenancy in Yorkshire, on designe to raise his 700 men, but the people hearken as little to his devotion as (I believe) heaven to his prayers, soe that had hee not prevailed with some officers of his militia to pick them up (for the most part) out of the traine bands, hee had returned *re infectâ*.

I shall not give your Excellency this trouble but by express, finding the post's office stopt, soe that I hope you will not measure respects to you by the number of my letters, for I am with all sincerity,

Your Excellency's most humble and faithfull servant,

J. R(OSSE).

R July $\frac{11}{18}$.

Mr. Rosse.

¹ Lord Clifford is probably intended.

² The other side is the party in the Cabinet acting with France, and for carrying out the policy promoted by the Duke of York and Lord Clifford, who had been forced to retire. The Duke of Buckingham was at this time on that "other side."

No. 29.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 23, '73.

I have the favour of your Excellency's of the $\frac{1}{3}$ ³th instant, and if I doe not trouble you by every ordinary it is either because nothing materiall occurs to mee or what does you receive from my Lord in his letter. You heard by the last Sir Thomas Osborne's being made Lord Treasurer, and the Speaker¹ succeeds him. I am told my Lord Clifford had a compensation of 10,000*l.*, of which 7 was paid by Mr. Seymour and 3 by the now Lord Treasurer. They discourse in the town of more changes, but all I can assure you of is onely that my Lord Duke of Ormond does again come to the Committee of Forreigne Affaires, by which you may guesse att more.

It is confidently said the Duke does not goe to command the forces the King has lately raised, which I am apt to beleieve because he has resigned and layd down all his employments, so farre as not to come to Councill since his resignation of the Admirallship. The King has appointed my Lord Chancellor, my Lord Treasurer, my Lord Privy Seale, Duke of Monmouth, Duke of Lauderdale, Duke of Buckingham, Duke of Ormond, Earle of Arlington, Sir George Carteret,² and Mr. Secretary Coventry to bee commissioners for executing that office. Mr. Pepys is their secretary, and, to make some compensation to Sir John Werden,³ the King has made him one of the commissioners of the Navy. Amongst those that leave their places upon account of the late Act you would, I suppose, scarce have thought Dr. Worsley⁴ had been, and yet he is not to

¹ Mr. Seymour.

² Sir George Carteret, Baronet, had been a servant of Charles I. and Governor of Jersey, where he made a gallant defence against the Parliament forces. He was made at the Restoration Vice-Chamberlain, Treasurer of the Navy, and a Privy Councillor. In 1667 he exchanged the latter post with Arthur Annesley, Earl of Anglesey, for that of Deputy-Treasurer of Ireland. He died in 1679, at the age of eighty.

³ Werden had been Secretary of the Lord High Admiral.

⁴ Dr. Worsley was Secretary of the Council of Trade and Plantations, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury was President. Dr. Worsley was succeeded as Secretary by John Locke, as will be seen in a later letter, No. 118.

bee so much as suspected as a Catholique, for I dare sweare he is far from it.

You will please to order the person that put your last to my Lord (which he receaved this afternoone) into cypher to bee a little more exact in the next, this having severall mistakes in it and being very difficult to decypher.

I write this in haste it being late, though I have nothing else to adde but the assurance of my being, with great respect and truth, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull humble servant,
WM. BRIDGEMAN.

No. 30.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency, Whitehall, 23rd June, 1673.

What I wrote to your Excellency in my last of the Duke's commission for Generalissimo and Admirall being stopt proves true, my Lord Chancellor, after having consulted the Judges, reporting that it was contrary to the Act of Parliament, which it seems expressly says that if any person neglect or refuse to take the Sacrament, &c. and thereupon be dismiss his place, he shall, however, upon his receiving the Sacrament, &c. be afterwards admitted into any place. I dare not committ to paper the discourses of people on this occasion, and, besides, know your Excellency will in some sort imagine them. The late Lord Treasurer is preparing for his retreat into the country; many are of opinion it was not altogether conscience that hath moved him to it, but amongst other things his not being well with the House of Commons, but these are onely guesses. Sir Thomas Osborne is sworne on Wednesday next; he will come to Wallingford House.

Saturday morneing the King was at Blackheath, where there are as yet but 6 regiments; the rest will be there this week. The same

morning the Prince went downe to the Fleet, which begins to be now in some readinesse. It is generally said they will be ready to saile the latter end of this week or the beginning of the next. Monsieur Martell is come into the river with five French men-of-warr and two fire-ships.

The Dutch squadron that was upon our coast is gone home, for, besides that they have not of late appeared anywhere on our shore, they write from Middleburgh that they were now come againe into the fleet at Schonevelt, with great brags that they had not mett one English man-of-war at sea, and that they had been 6 leagues up the river of Thames, &c.

A yacht is ordered to goe and attend at Calais to bring over Monsieur Schomberg, who was the 18. instant at Tournay on his journey hither. It is not now doubted but that he shall command the army with the Duke of Bucks, as Lieutenant-Generalls. I cannot yet know who will be the Major-Generalls; some speake of Sir Walter Vane,¹ and Sir Thomas Morgan, Governor of Jersey, but it is as yet uncertaine.

Wee have by expresse from the Duke of Monmouth an account of the successe of the attacke made upon Maestricht the $\frac{17}{17}$ instant,² but the common reports here are that the French have paid dear for it. The people are extreemely pleased to see the Duke of Ormond called into the Cabinett Councell againe, for, to speak their words, he is a good Protestant and Englishman. Yesterday came in two Flanders posts together, which brought me two letters from your

¹ Sir Walter Vane had been Envoy to the Elector of Brandenburg during the first Dutch war, and John Locke had been his secretary.

² "The French invested Maestricht, and carried on the siege with so much vigour and success that, on the 17th of June, the day the Duke of Monmouth came on duty, four several attacks were ordered to be made, and his Grace was particularly commanded to make a lodgment in the counterscarp, which he performed with so much spirit and gallantry as rendered him deservedly famous; and six days after the place was surrendered on capitulation, the garrison being allowed to march out with all the honours of war."—(Ralph's Hist. of England, i. 236.)

Excellency, the one dated the 20. and the other the 23. instant. I waited upon my Lady Katherine¹ with the enclosed for her Ladyship, and that for Colonell Hamilton I shall keep by me till I have your Excellency's farther directions. I humbly beg leave to returne your Excellency my most dutifull thanks for that you are pleased to think well of my endeavours, which in whatever they may be defective shall never want a diligent zeale and faithfull intention to serve your Excellency, and to make good that I am, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient faithfull servant,

R. YARD.

NO. 31.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 23, '73.

Yesterday Mr. Yard received letters from Mr. Benson and some from your Excellency, which he answers this night and so largely, that, did I not know it was duty however to pay my small acknowledgement, what wee have here is so little that I should have forborne troubling your Excellency.

His Royall Highness having resigned his office of Admiralty, the Commissioners for the management of it are the Prince, Dukes of Buckingham, Monmouth, Lauderdale, and Ormond, Lord Chancellor, Treasurer, two Secretaryes, Earle of Anglesey, Sir George Carterett, and Mr. Seymour, with the usuall powers, all but forfeitures, which his Majesty reserves to himselfe, but no fee is settled on them as I can percieve by the warrant.

My Lord Treasurer Osborne takes his oath att Westminster on Thursday next: his new title is Lord Viscount Osborne of Scotland. The title of Lord Latimer he was not able to conquer, by reason of

¹ Lady Catharine O'Brien.

the severall pretentions of Percy, Cicell, Cornwallis, and Carr, all which were before him, and he descended by his mother of Walmasly, whose mother was Danvers, and shee daughter to that John Danvers that married the youngest daughter and heire of John Lord Latimer.

Its not to be writt the horrid discourses that passes now upon his Royall Highness surrendring; they call him Squire James, and say he was alwayes a Romanist; that he is retireing into the countrey, and is so angry att the management of affaires, that he is resolved not to meddle with State affaires more, which makes all sober men very sorry and much troubled. The Prince is now the only heroe in their thoughts; he is now att the fleete, which is, I am told, well-nigh fitted and will suddainly sayle. The rendezvous att Blackheath is now sayd to be on Wednesday next, by reason of the arrivall of Monsieur Schomberg this morning, who is to command all our Army; the Duke of Buckingham was once talked of, but the people heard it not without dislike and regret, and this stranger, though of an English mother, will, it is hoped, end all disputes about priority. The Towne remaine still in the same opinion that wee were beaten att sea, and will not believe wee intend to land. They talke strangly of the Parliament meeting, and of the feeing of the Dons there already. All I perceive is the surrender of Sir Robert Holmes¹ of the clerke of the Pells place in the chequer to the two younger sons of Collonell Strangways,² which was done this weeke.

¹ A. Marvell's description of Sir R. Holmes is as follows, in his "Seasonable Argument," &c., 1677: "First an Irish livery-boy, then a highwayman, now Bashaw of the Isle of Wight, got in bonds and by rapine 100,000*l.*: the cursed beginner of the two Dutch wars."

² Colonel Giles Strangways, Member for Dorsetshire, a great Cavalier leader. He was now being courted: in July 1675 he was made a Privy Councillor, and he died immediately after. He had been very active and prominent in the late session of Parliament against Shaftesbury on the question of writs issued by him as Lord Chancellor, while Parliament was not sitting. Andrew Marvell, having mentioned his promotion to the Privy Council in a letter to William Ramsden of July 24, 1675, adds a postscript: "Strangways, a man of seven or eight thousand pounds a year, having, as I told you, been lately made Privy Councillor, is dead like a fool. He was

There are some stories I have not mention'd by the common tale. I receive them by the next express. They say the King and Sir Thomas Browne, when he came into England, that he might in take care of himself, for he had not two friends in England, which startled him, till the Bishop acquainted himself by saying he was one himself and his wife became was the other. My Lord Clifford is returning with all speed into the country.

Just now comes Mr. Dudley from the camp with the news that Maestricht is taken. He is gone to the King, so that I cannot have the particulars, neither are they material to your Excellency, being so near the place.

I most humbly beg leave to be, may I please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R 27 July.

NO. 32.—FROM THE RIGHT HON. HENRY COVENTRY,
SECRETARY OF STATE.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 29th, 1673.

Your Excellency's of the 1st of this present I received not till the 22nd, three days after the express came from you. Wee befire that had received the joyfull news of the Duke of Monmouth's success, at which his Majesty sheweth as much satisfaction as you might easily imagine hee would, and the Court and City no lesse. What other great revolutions have happened heere I doubt not but your Excellency hath bene particularly informed of every weeke. They are but the same were discoursed of before your going, and yet now they are come to passe they are received as surprisalls, and give occasion to the most extravagant descants imaginable. The

one with the country, sworn with his new honour and with venom against the faction. He had set the informers to work, and died suddenly."—(Marvell's Works, Thompson's Edition, l. 427.)

Prince went 3 days since to the Fleete, and intendeth to bee presently out againe, though the Count d'Estrée bee at present heere, but intendeth I suppose immediately to repayre to the Fleete. My Lord Arlington I doubt not telleth your Excellency how well the accompt of the negotiations was received, and how little or nothing is added by the former directions, so there is not for mee to give you farther trouble then to assure you how much I am, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithful most obedient servant,

HENRY COVENTRY.

NO. 33.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, June 26th, 73.

I am unwilling to omitt this opportunity, though I have little to impart to your Excellency by it, nor has any thing occurred more since the last post, but that this morning wee receaved advice from Harwich that off the coast there they discovered a fleet of about sixty sail, which they suppose to have been Dutch, the weather not being cleare enough perfectly to discover them. The Prince yesterday sent his Majesty word all the ships that were in the Swale to refitt were fell downe again to the fleet; so wee conclude him in a condition to saile, and the winde blowing fresh at S.W., if the Dutch should adventure further this way (which I am very well perswaded they will not,) the Prince can gett out in a tide, and then I am sure they will returne as fast as they can to their station amongst the sands. This going by a safe hand I cannot conceale to you our complaint of want [of] men, but I looke upon it rather as a want in respect of what the Captains desire then what may be barely necessary to man their ships; however, all endeavours are used to procure more. Our landmen lay still encamped at Blackheath, and that affair seems to mee not to bee so vigorously prosecuted now since the Duke has (as is said) no further thoughts of going in person in this expedition, but Monsieur Shomberg being

now here upon the King's invitation, I presume some resolution will bee in a few days taken in this matter.

It is hoped here the taking of Mastricht may facilitate your negotiation, but that you are or will bee the best judges of upon the place when you see the effects it produces. People generally here blame the conduct of the Governor in this siege, and those that speake most favourably say they could not have thought but the place would have held out longer.

I am with much respect, Sir,

Your most faithfull humble servant,

June 27th.

WM. BRIDGEMAN.

This letter was written last night, but my Lord having thought fitt to stop Mr. Godfrey (by whom he sends your Excellency's dispatch) till now, you may perhaps receive the duplicate of it as soone as the originall; nothing has occurred since yesterday more then that wee are assured the Dutch fleet or part of them were yesterday in the Gunnfleet.

No. 34.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 26, 1673.

Hearing just now of Mr. Godfrey's coming to Maestricht I thought it my duty to give your Excellency the trouble of this, though I have had so short warning as not to doe as I accustomed. I hope your Excellency receives my letters, for I write twice a weeke and upon all extraordinary occasions.

This evening Sir John Miller was buried, with the attendance of 4 companyes and a great many gentlemen; he dyed yester morning after a fortnight's sickness of a violent feavor; his place of Major is given to Captain Winter, and his son has Captain Winter's Company.

This morning my Lord Treasurer Osborne was sworne att the chequer Barr and made the accustomed visitts to all the offices, but

has not yett done any business, nor will they say till Monday. All the officers remaine as before—Sir Robert Howard, Mr. Aram, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Worsley, and Mr. Abbott; as yet wee heare nothing of his Lordship's behavior, but all conclude him a great favorite.

Captain Watson is made Lieutenant to the Duke of Monmouth's troope of guards in my Lord Marshall's son's place, and Sir George Hewitt the young gallant cornett by purchase. Captain Ferdinand Littleton has Sir Henry Jones' troope.

There is yett but 7 companies at Blackheath, which makes all people wonder that if a descent is resolved on they should make no more haste. The Duke of Buckingham's leavyes are not yett come; his Grace goes frequently thither, and takes great paines to teach the meanest soldier, which makes them all crye him up for a great generall, and are not att all satisfyed att the notion of Monsieur Schomberg to command them, pretending he is a Frenchman, and that we have borrowed him of the King of France when he knew not what to doe with him. But all men feare our officers of this army are not well pickt out, for the most of them debaucht profane persons and publike atheists which they say openly they learne of the Duke of Buckingham, one yesterday publickly in company I am told saying he believed neither Heaven nor Hell. These kind of reports makes the Town full of malicious libells. I am told of severall, and promised the copyes of some which I dare not venture by the Post. A letter from the Chancellor to the Duke of Yorke dissuasive from Popery is shewed about towne and much praised;¹ and a horrid one of a Quaker to his freind in Jamaica or New England, wherein he sayes the men of the two houses att Westminster are angry with the whore of Babilon, but follow anti-Christ still; and that Charles followes his old wont, but James out of favour of the Parliament because he would not drinke his morning's draught with them; and divers such ugly speeches. This dayes allaram of the Dutch Fleete being upon the coast hath occasioned strange

¹ I have not been able to discover a copy of this letter of Lord Shaftesbury to the Duke of York.

discourses of an neglect, the rumour being the Dutch declare they come to another Chattham exploit.

On Tuesday last landed att Chester, Peter Talbott, pretended Archbishop of Dublin, having been driven out of Ireland by the prosecution of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland as he pretends. The collonell¹ continues in towne very gallant.

I dare not write the strang talke of the towne upon his Royall Highnesses surrender; your Excellency will better imagine it, it being as bad against him as ever it was in his father's dayes in the hieght of his troubles. They will have it the Duke goes into the countrey with a gallant traine of Papists which he will keepe about him; but Sir Jonathan Trelawny² told me to-day, he heard not when he went; he walkes frequently in the parke, and people come to see him there and fancy him very melancholy. I dare not longer presume either upon the bearer or your Excellency. I most humbly begg your Excellency's acceptance of my poore endeavours to do my duty, which shall not be wanting in me while I have the honour to be, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R July $\frac{1}{2}$.

NO. 35.—FROM SIR THOMAS PLAYER.³

Sir,

Since your departure I have made the best observation I could

¹ Colonel Richard Talbot, brother of Peter, a gentleman of the Duke of York's bed-chamber, and always a favourite of his. On the accession of James he was made Earl of Tyrconnel, and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

² M.P. for Cornwall, and in the Duke of York's service. Marvell describes him (1677): "one that is known to have sworn himself into 2,000*l.* at least in his account of the Paye Office, Contrroller to the Duke, and has got in gratuities to the value of 10,000*l.* besides what he is promised for being an informer."

³ Very shortly after this elected Chamberlain of the City, see Letter No. 42 from Sir John Robinson, Bart. Player was very conspicuous in the City agitation against the Duke of York, and for his exclusion. He was one of the Members for the City

of our Citie affairs that I might have had something worthy the sending of you, but I have not binne able to accomplish my designe, and therefore in obedience now to your Excellencies commands must justify me in this addresse, for all I can write beside that I feare will not doe it.

The death of Sir John Smith and the solitary condition of the Lady Jenny I suppose is not new to you;¹ but perhaps the discourse of Sir William Hooker's makeing Jenny Lady Mayoress, his lady being dead since you left England, may be new. I am sure it will be a greater novelty to tell you, that our madd people who governe kingdoms, and sett up ministers of state at their pleasure, have designed her for your Excellencye with her 15,000*l.* portion.

The incampeing of nine regiments of foot on Blackheath imployes both the tongues and heeles of most of the people in London and about it; all persons travell thither to see the new and fine show, and various opinions there are of their being lodg'd soe neere London, and some perswade themselves it will not be long before they be disbanded. The regiments of the trayn'd bands have binne muster'd; they marcht splendidly enough, and may doe his Majesty excellent service.

On Wensday last the artillery made their annuall march through London. They came in good time to my Lord Mayor's gate to wake him to his dinner. Good man,² his soule is always at quiett, for it is always asleepe. In our march back many fine things were done to please the people. Sir John Robinson and Sir Joseph

in the three last Parliaments of Charles the Second. He is accused of having blundered in his violent oratory against the Court by saying that he could hardly go to sleep for fear of waking with his throat cut. He is described as Rabsheka in the Second Part of Absalom and Achitophel (Tate's).

¹ Sir John Smith, son of Alderman James Smith, was also an alderman, and knighted when sheriff in 1670. He married for his second wife Jane, daughter and heir of Robert Deane, esq. of the co. York, by whom he had issue Sir John Smith of Isleworth, created a Baronet in 1694: see Wotton's Baronetage, 1741, v. 54.

² Sir William Hooker.

Sheldon were in armes both for the grace and incouragement of the businessse.

Our affaires in London move in a dull and slow pace; if God and the King doe not helpe us, I believe we must be noe corporation in a little time, for wee are not willing to take paines to helpe ourselves nor to aske helpe.

Wee have had for a long time most unseasonable weather, soe that wee feare great scarcity the next winter, and all our great coale ships are prest to transport the army at Blackheath, and the rest doe not stirre to Newcastle, and from that wee feare wee must blow our fingers for want of fire, and yet wee will not make hast to his Majesty, who is infinitely more carefull of us then wee are of ourselves. Thus I have fill'd my paper though to little purpose, but I hope your Excellency will accept it, it being in compliance to your pleasure. I dare not desire to heare from you, but I cannot but desire that you may returne home with an advantageous peace, which all people long after, and that you may at your returne finde yourselfe one of his Majestyes principall Secretaries of State, which is here much talkt of; my humble service to your great officer Mr. Weeks.

Your Excellencies most obedient Servant,

Guildhall, June 27th, 1673.

THO. PLAYER.

R July $\frac{6}{16}$.

No. 36.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 27, '73.

Captain Godfrey, who arrived here on Monday with the news of the surrender of Mاسترخت from the Duke of Monmouth, returning this night to his Grace, My Lord hath taken hold of the occasion

to write to your Excellency recommending his letter to Sir William Lockhart,¹ to give it a safe and speedy conveyance, as I hope it will have; and his Lordship commanding mee to give you a particular account of each letter his Lordship hath received from your Excellency by Mr. Ellis, and since his arrivall, I here inclose a list thereof accordingly for your Excellencies satisfaction therein.

This night there goes likewise a duplicate of his Lordship's by the ordinary, least some accident should befall the former. I have little to adde to the news his lordship gives your Excellency more then that this day is come a confirmation of the Dutch fleet being upon the coast, and that our fleete now lyes in the buoy of the Nore in readinesse to bee quickly with them.

Monsieur Schomberg arrived here three or foure dayes since and was very kindly received by the King and Duke; it is not yet resolved what his command is to be in the army, but nothing but a very honourable one will content him.

Yesterday the new Lord Treasurer was sworne, and my Lord Chancellor made a speech to him according to custome, the point of which I know you have from another hand.

The last letters from Sir William Godolphin² brought a paper given him in answer to his Memoriall for satisfaction to the Most Christian King for the attempt on Charleroy,³ a copy whereof I presume to inclose to your Excellency, and, having nothing further

¹ Sir William Lockhart was at this time our envoy in France. It will be seen from later letters, that he was dissatisfied with his rank there, and succeeded in his wish to be ambassador. Evelyn speaks of him in his Diary on September 3, 1673, as "my Lord Lockhart, designed ambassador for France, a gallant and a sober person." He had been ambassador in France under Cromwell; he had married Cromwell's niece. Bishop Burnet speaks of him in high praise (i. 77, 391). "I have ever looked on him," says Burnet, "as the greatest man that his country [Scotland] produced in this age, next to Sir Robert Murray." He died in 1676.

² Our ambassador at Madrid.

³ The English government zealously supported France in a demand from Spain for satisfaction for their attack on Charleroi. See Arlington's Despatches to Sir W. Godolphin, April 14, June 9, August 11, in Arlington's Letters, vol. ii. pp. 412-423.

to trouble your Excellency with, I hast to end this with my constant profession of being ever, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most humble and most devoted servant,
JO. RICHARDS.

NO. 37.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 27, 1673.

Mr. Godfrey giveing out he was to go away last night, I presently went and gave your Excellency the trouble of a letter, but I heare he is not gone yett, so that this may possibly come before it to your Excellency; neither that nor this can give your Excellency much newes, little being now stirring here. The Dutch Fleete being upon our coast still, people are pleased to make untoward reflexions and say wee shall receive some affront from them. This day the Cabinet rose not till 2 afternoone, having satt above 4 houres, so that there was no Councell. Orders were despatched this day to all the ports that no vessell stirr out, till they heare the Dutch Fleete are retired againe, and two expresses sent to the Prince; and this evening the Earle of Ossory is gone away for the Fleete. I cannot heare yett what they will do with their army att Blackheath, they come so slowly, and not a collonell that lyes in the field with them but the Earle of Mulgrave,¹ who appears a very active collonell.

¹ John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, now in his twenty-fifth year, was afterwards distinguished in literature and politics. He is author of an "Essay on Satire," which was first attributed to Dryden, and an "Essay on Poetry," both poems. Dr. Johnson has given him a place in his Lives of the Poets. He held high offices of state in the reigns of James, William and Mary, and Anne. He was made Marquis of Normanby by William, and Duke of Buckinghamshire by Anne. He died in February, 1721, in his seventy-second year. Lord Mulgrave has left some Memoirs of this period of Charles II.'s reign. He was a munificent friend of Dryden, and erected in 1721 a monument in Westminster Abbey to his memory.

This evening the Cabinet are meeting againe. His Royall Highness was sent for to the morning's meeting and stayed all the time, which caused the report to be spread this day that hee should command the army againe, neither Monsieur Schomberg nor the Duke of Buckingham giving much content to the soldiers in generall. His Royall Highness is here again this night. Of late here have come out no prints but papers of verses, which I would not trouble your Excellency with all; since is the inclosed speech of my Lord Chancellor's to my Lord Treasurer. A report is about towne this day that my Lord Arlington was to quitt his secretaries place and your Excellency to succeed him att your returne, and his Lordship to be made Lord Chamberlain, the Earle of St. Alban's desiring to retire, and my Lord some ease of business; that the Duke of Lauderdale was also desirous to returne into Scotland and leave all employments here, and his bedchamber's place to be given to my Lord Arlington, to make his concern the more considerable; but this I dare nott affirme for gossell, being told it only by Sir Thomas St. George, who frequents much coffee-houses, but I hope it may [be] that, if not better, when your Excellency comes backe.

There has been nothing of late scarce att the Signett Office but what I have told your Excellency, only a new lease to the Countess of Falmouth, of the priviledge of hanging chaines from the bridge to Gravesend to fasten ships bye, for 31 yeares, under the rent of 13s. 6d.; and New Parke confirmed to Mr. James Hamilton's son; and a grant of armes by his Majesty to one Cletcher, a Swede, the first I ever saw in his Majestyes reigne.

My Lord Marshall has resigned his staff¹ to the Earle of Carlisle, now very ill of the goute, but nothing of his power, continuing his prosecution of his great priviledges in the Heralds' Office, and has almost spoyled the same, not permitting any officer to meddle att all but Mr. Lee and Mr. Sandford, his two favorites.

All here are very jealous of the French, and say wee must have no peace but what the French will give us; and severall inquired

¹ This appears to have been a false rumour.

of me this day whither the treaty were not broken off already and your Excellency returning.

Madamoselle Charwell¹ has the famousest chaire makeing that ever was seen, beyound the King's or Queen's by farr.

I most humbly intreate your Excellency to pardon the impertinency of this post, there being nothing almost to write, yett I durst not neglect that or any oportunity of being, as in duty I am bound alwayes to acknowledge my selfe, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R July 1⁶.

No. 38.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 27 June, 1673.

The last post which arrived on Tuesday last brought me your Excellencies of the 11th instant, with an inclosed for Sir Robert Carr, which I imediately putt into his hands, he telling me he would answer it by this post, and in the mean time desired me to present your Excellency his humble service. Yesterday about noone wee received advice by an expresse from Harwich, that the Dutch fleet had the night before appeared off of that place, which is confirmed this morneing as your Excellency will see in the enclosed. In the mean time our Fleet is in a manner ready to sayle. Prince Rupert writt the 25. instant to my Lord, that the ships were all come to the Buoy of the Nore, and that if the Victuallers kept their promise with him they would be ready to saile that night, and that he wanted nothing but men, which all endeavors possible have been used to raise, masters of vessells haveing not been exempted;

¹ Mademoiselle de la Querouaille, the King's mistress from France, brought over in 1670, and now soon to be made Duchess of Portsmouth.

however, it is thought the enemies appearing will hasten them out a day or two sooner then otherwise they would have been.

On Wednesday last the King was at Blackheath, when the Duke of Bucks drew up the army and exercised them. I cannot hear that Monsieur Scomberg has as yet appeared in any command. The news being come into the towne that he is to be generall, it occasions some dissatisfaction that none can be found fitt to command an army but a forreigner. There are at present 7 regiments at Blackheath; the others are not yet come up.

I doe not yet hear that the commission for appointing the Commissioners of the Admiralty is past the great Seale, and hitherto the King has done the businesse himselfe by the hands of Mr. Pepys. The people will have that * * *¹ is growne very malancholy and intends to retire into the country; this I know, yesterday there was a Cabinnett Councell both forenoone and afternoone, and he was not there; and this morneing was a meeting againe, and then, after they were all mett, the King sent for him, and then he came; besides, people make a hundred observations which I cannot think fitt to committ to paper.

The late Lord Treasurer is now prepareing for his retirement into the country; enclosed is one from him to your Excellency, which one of his servants brought me this afternoone. This noone came an expresse from the Prince, in which he gives an account, that his scouts had brought him the news of the Dutch Fleet being come upon our coast, and that he was makeing all the hast he possibly could to fall downe. So that it is thought he sailed this day from the Buoy at the Nore, or will to-morrow; hitherto the wind is westerly, favourable for our fleet to goe out, and contrary to the enemy in case they had any designe of comeing into the Narrow to sink any ships, as some report they have an intention to doe, in case they can meet with a good oppertunity; but by the grace of God it is not doubted but the Prince will prevent

¹ The blank is for the Duke of York.

them and send them very suddainely home againe. It is said that the French men-of-war are not so ready as ours, and that they stay for them, but I doe not think so, but that if they stay for anything it is for men, which the Prince complains he wants. I have acquainted Mr. Newcomb with what your Excellency writt, concerning his allowing my Lord's Secretary's the profit of what they cause to be printed by my Lord's order out of his letters.¹

Mr. Godfrey, who brought us on Monday last the news of the surrender of Mastricht, is returneing this night to the Camp, from whence he will send my Lord's letters to your Excellency forward, as I have prayed him to doe this. It was once intended he should have gone yesterday, but he has stayed for the King's letters.

I am, with all duty and respect, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull obedient Servant,

R. YARD.

Just now I received this enclosed from Portugall, which I have not time to transcribe, and therefore presume to send your Excellency the originall.

R $\frac{1}{2}$ July.

No. 39.—FROM THOMAS ROSS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, June 27, 1673.

I was very unwilling to hazard a letter to you before I knew you were fixed, which I first understood by Mr. Ellis, who thought hee should have bin dispatched back to your Excellency within a day or two after, and in that confidence I gave him a letter which how hee hath disposed I cannot learne, though I heare hee is still here (but not to bee found by mee), and perhaps may bee yet some

¹ See before in p. 30.

time, upon Mr. Secretarie Coventry's complaint of him for his indiscreet behaviour towards him.

I have not much more to say then what I then writt, but what (I am informed) you have from other hands, of the faire way that is making for you to the station your Excellency hath soe well meritted, and soe justly promised you before your departure. My Lord Arlington seemes weary of the fatigue of his place, and if your Excellency approve the proposition, noe doubt you will soone bee fixed where your friends have long expected and wished you, and mee thinks after such indefatigable pains and incessant service the King should not deviate from his custome of paying for the place, though the candidate beat the bargaine, and I hope you doe not despaire, though you have lost your old friend in the Treasury, who hath appear'd very little since the staffe is in my Lord Dumb-lain's hands.

Hee was yesterday sworne at the Exchequer, when his Lordship was entertained with a short but very quaint speech by the Lord Chancellor,¹ who in one part told him that some men were by strength of friends and their owne industry and parts raised suddenly to highest dignities, and as suddenly by their owne folly and opiniastriety were layd aside, but his Lordship being bred in the House of Commons (that nursery of statesmen), hee doubted not but his great prudence would tell him that *non minor est quam quærere*,² &c. and in pithy sayings to this purpose welcom'd him to the Exchequer. Wee are noe more all of a piece here then when your Excellency left us, nor can it be easy to judge which side is uppermost; yet wee are not altogether in despaire that the old honest party will weather the storme, my Lord of Ormond beeing now in the Cabinett, and very kinde caresses given to others. The Dutch appeared yesterday on our coasts about Aldborough with 60 sailes, and I feare it will yet bee a weeke (though wee have more then that number ready) before our whole ffeet will goe out. Our Army,

¹ The Earl of Shaftesbury.

² *Parta tueri non minor est virtus quam quærere.*

now consisting of 8 regiments (my Lord Ogle's¹ not yet come up, nor my Lord Carlisle's), is encamped upon Blackheath, and are in very good order, the King having visited them, with Monsieur Schomberg, who, it's believed, will fix here.

I shall watch for every expresse that goes hence to pay this duty to your Excellency, for whom I have that gratitude and esteeme, that I shall alway bee ambitious of the title of, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most humble and most faithfull servant,

THO. ROSS.

R July $\frac{13}{2}$.

NO. 40.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 30 June, 1673.

Yesterday I received the honor of your Excellency's of the 30 instant, with an enclosed for Sir Robert Viner; he and the rest of your Excellency's brethren present you their most humble service. My last to your Excellency was by Captain Godfrey, who went not hence till Sunday morneing, yet I doubt not but those letters he was charged with will be with your Excellency long ere this. The Dutch Fleet has continued ever since Wednesday last, the first day they appeared upon our coast, off of Harwich, and we were made believe they had a great many of their sink-ships with them to stop up some of our channells, though hitherto they have not attempted any thing, but kept oft to sea at a good distance; and after all Mr. Puckle, arrived this morneing from Zealand, assures us that on Friday last De Ruyter lay with the main of the Fleet in Schonevelt, and that this is onely a squadron of men-of-war that hath made this noise upon our coast. However, it has done us that good as to make us hasten the more our Fleet, which at present, as I can hear of, wants nothing but men, and those they want still very much, for

¹ Henry Earl of Ogle, eldest son of William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle; he died November 1, 1680, having been married in 1679 to Lady Elizabeth Percy, heiress of the Earl of Northumberland.

though a great many men are prest, yet they are most of them unfitt for service, and this is a great cry amongst the captaines that they have not any men that knows what belongs to the saileing of a ship; notwithstanding which wee hope to hear that our Fleet will in a day or two at farthest saile from the Buoy of the Nore.

This morneing, by three of the clocke, the King, the Duke, my Lord of Ormond, my Lord Arlington, and some others, Lords of the Councell, went downe to Gravesend, where the King is to meet the Prince, and to take his leave of him, and withall give him his last orders.

Saturday last the King carried Monsieur Scomberg to Blackheath to see our men drawne up there, in all 7 regiments. He gave them a great many commendations, saying he did not doubt but they would doe excellent service, on what occasion soever they were employed, and now all people designe him for the person that shall command them in chief, in case they be sent upon any service, which many, who observe how slowly they come together, begin to doubt, and say they are to be forthwith disbanded or kept on foot here at home, but these are onely discourses. In the mean time 10 men was on Saturday ordered to be drawne out of each company to be sent on bord the Fleet to supply their places who were killed in the late engagements.

Here at Court wee talke of great changes at hand; the Dukè of Lauderdale is goeing for Scotland, and his place of Gentleman of the Bedchamber is to be given to Monsieur Scomberg. The Duke of Bucks is said to be goeing for France to passe some time there, haveing disposed of his place of Master of the Horse to the King to Don Carlos,¹ the profitts of which he is however to enjoy dureing his minority. I would formerly have told your Excellency of what is said of my Lord Arlington's being about quitting his place for that of Lord Chamberlain, and that your Excellency is designed to succeed him, but that I cannot think this would be any news to

¹ Charles Fitz-Charles, natural son of the King by Catherine Peg. He was afterwards created Earl of Plymouth, and married a daughter of the Earl of Danby, Lord Treasurer.

your Excellency, who has better grounds to expect these high preferments then the reports of people, and may they so always speak truth, when they tell of any happinesse or prosperity to your Excellency!

On Saturday night last happened in Wapping a great fire, by which before morneing above 100 houses were burnt downe to the ground, besides two or three vessells; it began at a baker's house by carelesnesse as is said of a maid-servant.

The Commissioners for the manageing the affairs of the Admiralty have not as yet their Commission from the Great Seale, and there is some discourse that it is stopt by reason of some difference between the Lords that are to fill that Commission.

I have not any thing to transmitt from hence save the enclosed extract; and now, begging your Excellency's pardon, I humbly, with my prayers for all honor and happinesse to your Excellency, subscribe my selfe, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull; obedient, and
gratefull servant,
R. YARD.

R July $\frac{6}{16}$.

No. 41.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, June 30th, 1673.

My last was of Friday last, which I hope your Excellency received, as also one the day before; yesterday wee heard from your Excellency.

On Satturday night last began a sad fire att Wapping Docke, which burnt downe (as by estimate) 200 houses and 2 marchants ships in the docke, but ended by 4 of the clocke next morning.

Since the hanging of Browne for stealing of the heiress, another, one Pierce, was on Satturday last tryed for the same fact, but with this difference, that he was a cittizen and the girle a countrey wench, so that he had all the great men of that place of his party, and came off with her owning him for her husband.

This morning his Majesty, my Lord Ormond, Lord Arlington, and most of the great persons went down to the fleete, with intentions to returne att night. Our fleete is reported to want men much (many being killed and hurt in the late fights) and such the carriage of the press masters and officers that the poore fellowes rather choose looseing their lives att land or imprisonment, then going with them. They say the Prince is extreemely troubled att his want of everything, and that he cannot goe out and drive the Dutch from the coast, whose lying in the Gun fleet so long gives great matter of discourse. Att Blackheath is come this day some recruites belonging to the Duke of Buckingham's regiment, all likely young fellowes, about 300.

I know not how to tell your Excellency the new reports of the towne, they are so various and different. Most say all the great persons are retireing before the next Parliament; my Lord Arlington to be Lord Chamberlain, and your Excellency Secretary in his roome, my Lord D. of Lauderdale into Scotland, and Monsieur Scomberge to have his place as Gentleman of the Bedchamber; and privately (but inconsiderately) bussed about that Scotland was to be modelled for the Duke of Monmouth.

A gentleman come newly from Spain sayes that at Cadiz our Consull¹ had been affronted and imprisoned there, and I find that yesterday Fonseca the Jew and Spanish Consul here was sent to the Gatehouse close prisoner for dangerous practices against his Majesty's Government, which makes all the marchants feare the newes is true of the Swedes joyning with the Dane against us if wee grant not a suddain cessation. All people shew great disquiett att the continuance of the warr, though none can tell why.

Mr. Philip Lloyd is sayd to be sworne Clerke of the Privy Councell Extraordinary, with which his other great employments makes him two bigg for the quality he now is in; so that they say

¹ Sir Martin Wescombe; see letter No. 55 p. 111.

he shall be knighted, as they say Mr. Godfrey was, on his bringing the newes of Maëstricht.

I most humbly am, may it please your Excellency,
Your Excellency's most obliged servant,

H. BALL.

R July $\frac{6}{16}$.

NO. 42.—FROM SIR JOHN ROBINSON, BART.

Deare brother,

Since my last to you I have yours of the 21st of June, and am gladd to heare of your good health, which is dayly remembered where ever I am. I have communicated your kind lincs to me, especially to Sir Robert Vyner and all the rest of your brethren. I pray my service to honest Luke Weekes; there's little encouragement to call at his quarters; some two bottles of old dead tawny wine have beene drunke there since he went away, which Lords and some other persons of great quality have beene contented to swallowe to drink yours and his health. When I come to Whitehall, I cannot passe by without calling in there, and at your office, but without any delight. You have the services rendered to you of all your bretheren, with Sir Thomas Player, new elected Chamberlaine. Tuesday last, Midsomer Day, Mr. Linsey confirmed Sheriffe by the Common Hall, and another chosen, one Bareblock,¹ a mercer of the new Exchange, one of our brethren of the Cloathworkers' Company.

Wednesday was the greate generall day of the Artillery Company marching through the Citty after Sir Tho. Player our leader. My selfe and brother Sheldon did him the honor to carry pikes, and doe the duty under him of the day till tenn at night. The Archers' feast is upon Munday next; wee, the stewards, have an account of a large number of persons of quallity that will meete us at dinner, in a long roome at Mr. Pead's the cook's in Queene Streete, neere Guildhall, where they will be enterteyned like yours and our friends.

¹ Neither of these gentlemen served as Sheriff.

I am most hartily sorry I must give you the newes of the death of our good friend and brother Sir John Smith, which was very sudden, of an impostume in his head; he dyed rich and honorably; he hath left mourning to my Lord Mayor and his officers by his will, and 600*l.* to be bestowed upon his funeralls. I cannot say Sir William Hooker burried his Lady lately with any greate honor at Greenwich. I must not forgett this day I din'd at Balmes; Colonell Strangwith, Sir Francis Lawley,¹ Sir John Lowder, Mr. Thomas, &c. &c.; wee hartily drank your health, and they begged their services might be recomended to you. You have the service of the housekeeper at Faringwoods, and all the rest, whom thanks be to God are all well. I most hartily wish you good successe to your undertaking. My harty service to Sir Ly. Jenkins; I kiss your hands, and remaine,

Your most affectionate brother,

J. ROBINSON.

R July $\frac{6}{16}$.

NO. 43.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 4 July, 1673.

The arrivall of the Straights Fleet occasions great joy upon the Exchange, as well as here at Court, for they bring mony, marchandise, and seamen. In the mean time some carefull people are not without concerne at the Dutch Fleet's being removed towards the Galloper, as our advices this day tell us, which, if it be true, looks like a designe that, after haveing hitherto been off of Harwich and Orford, they should just now remove to lye in the way of the Straights Fleet, should they come for the river, which wee cannot think they will doe without order from hence, since they know there that the Dutch are out. It is the opinion of many here, as well as on the other side of the water, that the Dutch, haveing all

¹ M.P. for Shropshire; described by A. Marvell (1677) "a pensioner, one of the horses in Madame Fontelet's coach."

the strength now together they can expect, are intended to fight us, especially if they have any advantage; and, on the other side, they will have that wee ought to avoyd a battle, but first endeavor to land if any such thing be intended. The main of our fleet lyes still at the Buoy of the Nore; part of the Blew Squadron, under the the command of the Earle of Ossory, fell downe towards the Middle Grounds on Monday last, to lye in a posture in case the enemy should have attempted any thing, and, since, the rest of that squadron has followed. Wee still say the whole fleet will sayle in a day or two, at two at farthest, and, in the mean time, will have the French to be the occasion that they have stayd so long in; severall reports have been spread about Towne upon this account; some said they had no men to man their ships, and other necessities they wanted which could not be supplied them here; but the polititians of the Towne say, and it has been for severall days the great discourse, that the Count D'Estrees makes difficulty of saileing under the command of the Prince, who they say does not love their nation, &ca. But, after all, the true reason that the fleet is not at sea is want of men; great numbers, I am told, have been sent up sick, and many have run away while the ships were repaireing, which great diligence hath been used to supply by a new presse, which has been so severe that Masters of ships have been pressed and sent downe unlesse they could send two seamen in their roomes. And, besides, above two thousand soldiers have been sent downe this week, of which 19 companies were drawne out of the forces at Blackheath. It seemes to be a great riddle how the forces that still remaine there will be employed: as yet they have not a generall officer among them, and the officers begin to complaine that the unscasonable weather will breed distempers amongst the men, and, therefore, if they are not to be sent on any action would desire to be quartered in the neighbouring townes and villages.

Monsieur Scombergh is certainly come into the Bedchamber in the roome of the Duke of Lauderdaill. But for his commanding

the army, it is said he has excused it, as being unwilling to bear the envy that command would bring along with it.

Here, at Court, the people will still have great changes to be at hand. His Royall Highnesse is goeing to passe some time in Suffolke, haveing, as I am told, hired a pleasant seat of my Lady near Berry, in Suffolke. In the Towne, every one turnes statesman, and takes the greatest liberty imaginable to discource of the management of things; though the Spanish Consul, Don Francisco Fonseca, has been layd in the Gatehouse some days since by warrant from my Lord Arlington, for treasonable practises or useing his tongue too lavishly.

Severall complaints have been made of Coll. Scot in Flanders, who, it seems, does the King all the ill service his capacity will give him leave.

On Wednesday last, at Councell, the Commission for enquiry into the affairs of Ireland, to which Sir John Scheen was secretary, after examination was cancelled.

Mr. Puckle is made a Commissioner of the Navy, to the great wonderment of all people, who now publickly say, that nothing is so capable of preferring any man but knowne disloyalty and dis-services to the Crowne in the late times.

The Commission for appointing the Lords of the Admiralty is now passing with all speed.

This afternoone dyed suddainely Sir Robert Murray;¹ of which, and some other accidents which have happened this week here in Towne, Mr. Ellis will be able to give your Excellency a particular account.

¹ Sir Robert Murray was one of the founders and the first President of the Royal Society. He was a great friend of Burnet, who has written a glowing character of him. (*History of his Own Time*, i. 59, 355.) He was a particular friend of the Earl of Shaftesbury, after dining at whose house it appears from a later letter, No. 46 of July 7, that he was suddenly taken ill. Evelyn records his attending the funeral, July 6, 1673: "This evening I went to the funeral of my dear and excellent friend, that good man and accomplished gentleman, Sir Robert Murray, Secretary of Scotland. He was buried by order of his Majesty in Westminster Abbey."

This day the Lord Mayor, Sir Joseph Shelden, &c. charged me to present your Excellency their most humble service. The report in Towne is that the treaty is broken of, and that your Excellency is on your way home.

I humbly beg your Excellencies pardon for the trouble of this long and empty letter, which will I hope, however, lett your Excellency see that I endeavor to discharge the duty of, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull, obedient, and obliged servant,
R. YARD.

R¹⁰/₁₀ by Mr. Ellis.

NO. 44.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 4, 1673.

On Monday last I presumed to give your Excellency an account of what then came to my knowledge; since which, on Wednesday last, happened a sad accident: One Justice Freeman, of Barn Elmes, having been all day in town, was returning home about 11 at night on horse-backe, and neare the Devill Taverne in Fleete Street, the pipes having been opened and great holes made and left without a light or watchman, the poore gentleman fell in with his horse and hurt himselfe so that he dyed an hour after.

On Satturday last two gentlemen of the Horse Guards quarrelling, the Countess of Shrewsburies coachman interposeing, but too rudely, with his whip, with which he slasht one of the gentlemen so often over the face, that hee was so farr provoaked, as with one thrust to runn the fellow through the body and brooke his sword in him, with which he presently dyed, and the Guardman being seized, was presently brought to be examined by the Duke of Buckingham, who beate the man very much and broke his head, for which his Grace is much blamed; the thing att last being found by the Green-cloath but manslaughter, but the Duke has promised him he shall be hanged.

The quarrell on Monday att the King's Theatre was occasioned thus: one Mr. Ravenscroft having half a yeare since received an affront from Sir George Hewitt¹ in the play-house, and having ever since studyed retalliation, came that day to the play, where finding him there, beate him with his cane and so went away; presently after which my Lord Buckhurst² and Capt. Bulkley going out with intentions to the other play-house, were followed by chance by Coll. Strode, so that all three being at the doore and Mr. Ravenscroft and company going by, and my Lord by chance blaming the action, Mr. Ravenscroft presently fell to words, and then they all drew. My Lord was hurt in the body, Capt. Bulkley in the necke, and the Collonell in his hand and eare, but all their hurts are now cured.³

On Wednesday a drummer of the Duke of Albemarle's at Black-

¹ Sir George Hewitt was believed to be the original of Etherege's, "Sir Fopling Flutter" in his play "The Man of Mode." He is described in a previous letter No. 34 of June 26, p. 67, as "the young gallant cornet." He was called Beau Hewitt, and was a notorious dandy. Mr. Ravenscroft was an inferior play-writer; he had a controversy with Dryden. See Globe Edition of Dryden's Poetical Works, pp. 414-17.

² Eldest son of the Earl of Dorset, a man of wit and a poet, was raised to the peerage as Earl of Middlesex during his father's lifetime, in 1675, and succeeded as Earl of Dorset in 1677. He died in January 1706, in his seventieth year. After the Revolution of 1688 he was appointed Lord Chamberlain. Horace Walpole says of him: "He was the finest gentleman in the voluptuous Court of Charles II. and in the gloomy one of King William: he had as much wit as his first master, or his contemporaries Buckingham and Rochester, without the Royal want of feeling, the Duke's want of principles, or the Earl's want of thought." (Royal and Noble Authors ii. 96, ed. 1749.) He was a man of great wit, and skilled in satire; Price said of him, that he was "the best-natured man with the worst-natured Muse."

³ This fracas, of which there is more in later letters, may have been part of the allusion of Dryden in his Epilogue, spoken at the opening of the new King's Theatre, March 26, 1674:

"So may Fop-corner full of noise remain,
And drive far off the dull attentive train:
So may your midnight scourgings happy prove,
And morning batteries force your way to love:
So may not France your warlike hands recall,
But leave you by each other's swords to fall."

heath being gott drunke and for it carrying to the horse, the soldiers gott together and declared they saw no reason to punish him for what the officers had never been free from since their coming thither, and then tooke him from them and rudely treated their officers, Coll. Vane having a muskett presented to his breast, and great disorder had like to have happened; but every Captain drawing off his men, it was att last appeased, and the offenders to be punished according to the military orders now publisht; since which there is great grumbling among them, that they must goe to sea and their coates taken from them to be putt upon the recruits to be added, as they make draughts still, so that the King knowes not what to thinke of them. There is a generall dissatisfaction among the marchants and the coffee-houses, dayly venting malicious censures of the actions of this present warr, their feares of breakeing with Spaine driveing them beyond reason. They say their ships are dayly taken by Capers, and his Majesty will permitt them to sett out none, nay, take their men out of their vessells, whither laden or not, and leaving them to be robbed and spoyled. They are not terryfied at all with the feares of Sweden and Denmarke, but thinke his Majesty may doe better in breakeing with them, he having stores enough for one yeare and for the next to lett but privateers goe out, and they make noe doubt but to make them first weary, for all their trade with Holland would fall into their hands, and under that notion now the Dutch trade as securely as in tyme of peace.

The people will have our Caball to be much divided; that my Lord Arlington must be Lord Chamberlain and your Excellency succeed him; the Duke of Lauderdale is suddainly to goe into Scotland, having, I see, already sold his place of Bedchamber to his Majestie for 6,000*l.* ready money, which is to be given to Mons^r Schomberge. The Duke of Buckingham has declared he will suddainly resigne to Don Carlos.

Att the Signett hath happened since but these few things. Mr. Brouncker and Mr. Young to surrender to my Lord Hollys and the

Queene's Trustees Somersham mannore and other lands in Huntingdonshire formerly assigned them by the late Trustees of the Queen Mother for 99 yeares.

600*l.* pr. ann. to Coll. Francis Windham and the heires males of his body, out of the Excise, to commence att Xmas.

James Puckle esq. to be one of the Commiss's of the Navy with 350*l.* pr. ann. allowance, which people talke much of, he having been Harrison's brother in law and a great fifth Monarkist; but few know the reason of the King's favour to him, and that is the cause of the discourse; he is, I heare, to be suddainly knighted and to have other prefferments.

Wm. Merricke to have all the forfeited estate of John Merricke a *felo de se*, and he that in Aprill last killd himselfe at Portesmouth where he was an Ensigne, upon discouragments received att sea last yeare.

1,000*l.* pr. ann. pension to Mary Countess of Falmouth for life.

200*l.* pr. ann. to the Cofferer, to be by him given to Christina Cooper, relict of Samuell Cooper¹ late the King's limner, for her life, in consideration of severall picktures to be delivered by her for his Majestyes use.

Licence to the Earl of Bridgwater to build his house in Barbican.

850*l.* pr. ann. to Mrs. Hamilton, widdow to the Coll.,² during her three sonns' lives, and 500*l.* pr. ann. for her selfe.

Sir Robert Wiseman made a Commissioner of the Excise, with 500*l.* pr. ann. allowance.

The weather continues so very bad that scarce was ever seen the like, all Holland in Lincolnshire being under water, as also other low grounds and marshes in Norfolke and Suffolke, and it's feared it will much prejudice hay and corne. Wee have had but two summer's dayes this yeare, and those before your Excellencies departure.

The inclosed my Lady sent mee, the other Mr. Fleming. I most humbly beg your Excellencies pardon for my ill writing, I

¹ The famous miniature-painter.

² See p. 17.

having been all this day troubled with a great cold, as divers are with a new decease like the gripes, but violently, it being supposed to proceed from the unkindlyness of all sorts of fruites this yeare.

On Wednesday morning Sir Robert Carre went into the country for a month or six weekes, but my Lady is in Towne and staves for his returne. My Lord Osborne will they say be made Earle of Danby, a title formerly in the family of the Danverses, of which family by the grandmother he is descended; the whole genealogy I have ready to present your Excellency with when I can have an oportunity. I most humbly throw my selfe and fortunes att your Excellencies feete, begging the continuance of your favours to, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most obedient servant,

HEN. BALL.

R 1/4 by Mr. Ellis.

No. 45.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excell^y,

Whitehall, 7 July, 1673.

Yesterday I received the honor of your Ex^{ties} of the 7th instant, by which I perceive that mine of the 16. past had not come to your Ex^{ties} hand, and wonder extreamely at it, for I assure your Ex^y that I have not missed one post since your Ex^y was on the other side of the water, and beg that if the like happens for the future your Ex^y will be pleased to conclude that, whosoever's the fault is, it is not mine. As to what your Ex^y is pleased to write concerneing your House, I will take care to observe your Ex^{ties} directions.

After wee had impatiently expected to see the generall commands of the King's forces disposed of, the point has been at last determined, for on Saturday last the King signed a Commission constituting his Highness Prince Rupert Generall and Chief Commander of all the King's forces, horse and foot, to be employed by sea or land against the Dutch, or others his Mat^{ties} enemies, with power to make

truce and grant articles to any place, and all other authorities that have at any time been granted to a Commander in Chief, and particularly power to conferr the honor of knighthood on each as shall behave themselves to deserve it.

On Saturday about 11 at night the King, the Duke, and most of the Lords of the Cabinet Councell, went down to the Fleet to take their finall resolutions there, though in Towne they will needs have it that the King's going downe is to reconcile the Prince and the French Vice Admirall, who they say refuses to saile under the command of the Prince, and though here are many people who are ready to invent, and at least to encrease such reports as these, yet there is now not any one but thinks that something has happened to give occasion for this generall discourse.

Att the same time that the Prince's commission was signed, another was likewise signed for Monsieur Scomberg to be Lieutenant-Generall of the King's forces. And what is very much wondred at, is that the Duke of Bucks has not as yet any. For he hath appeared the most at Blackheath, to exercise the army, though not at all to the officer's satisfaction, who say he is too much Frenchified in all he does, and brings new terms amongst the soldiers which they have not been used to.

The King took with him 7 meales, so that he is not expected back till to-morrow night or Wednesday morning, and it is thought will see the Fleet under saile before he comes from the Buoy of the Nore. The Streights Fleet, which is well arrived in the river, will, it is hoped, sufficiently supply our Fleet with men, the want of which, and the not readinesse of the provisions of all kinds, hath it is said kept the Fleet in much longer then would otherwise have been.

Wee have still here nothing but raine, which very much incommodes the soldiers at Blackheath; there is not at present above 5,000 men, to which the Duke of Bucks regiment, which is now come up out of the North, is to be added.

The Duke of Monmouth being on his way home, it is expected

hee will have some generall command. Our Inland letters this morneing brought us not anything worth sending to your Ex^{ty}, they onely telling us of the arrivall of two shippes from Jamaica at Plimouth, and of the two Moscovy ships at Newcastle. From Harwich since the returne of the Dutch Fleet to Shonevelt they have not any thing to advise from thence.

The Jamaica ships brought the enclosed letter for your Ex^{ty} from Sir Thomas Lynch.¹ I think I formerly acquainted your Ex^{ty} of the death of the Lord Willoughby.² I doe not yet hear of any nomination of his successor. The marchants seem to expect to hear of some damage we have sustained in the West Indies by Young Everson and the ships under his command.

I have lett Mr. Swaddle see what your Ex^{ty} was pleased to write concerning him. Sir Robert Carr is at present out of Towne, but when hero is very kind and ready to assist us all, though for my owne particular I choose rather to bear with severall little passages then complaine, and take notice of severall things but say nothing. For all they can doe cannot make me misse my aime, so long as I continue in your Ex^{cies} favor and protection in the quality of, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

B 33.

No. 46.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Ex^{ty},

Whitehall, July 7, 1673.

Your Ex^{cies} gracious acceptance of my duty and poore endeavours to serve you (which I shall continue to doe as long as I live) fills me with soe much joy, that I must beg your Ex^{cies} pardon if I want words to express my acknowledgment. I must confess your Ex^{cies} favours have ever been beyonnd my meritt. Your Ex^{cies} house I

¹ Governor of Jamaica.

² Sixth Lord Willoughby of Parham, made Governor of Barbadoes in 1672.

am constantly att, in the night, and call on it mornings and afternoons, and find in itt never any alteration, and I hope at your Ex^{cyes} returne you will have such a character of me, that I shall loose nothing of that happiness I now enjoy of your Ex^{cyes} esteeme, it shall never be willfully or by any prepenched intention.

My last to your Ex^{cy} was by Mr. Ellison, Fryday, since which, next night's tide, his Ma^{ty}, Royall Highness, D. of Buckingham, Ormond, Lord Treasurer, Earl of Arlington, and divers of the Lords went down to the Fleet, upon which a report was presently and confidently spread about Towne that there was a difference between the Prince and the French Vice Admirall, the latter refusing plainly to serve under the former, pretending want of conduct in the last fight, where they were forced to engage 3 ships deepe, which kill'd more of our men by our selves then the Dutch did. This is so boldly sayd in the Citty that it's beleived as gospell, but I cannot tell what to say of it; some dissatisfaction there is sayd to be which the King will make up now he is there. The Towne embrace any newes of a falling out between the French and us, with a greate deale of content, being very desirous of peace, and fancying the French will awe our Treaty and give us what termes they please. Every one takes great liberty to shew themselves discontented, and to shew the errours of our Government, some blaming the great countenance the Nonconformists have, who when (as they dayly doe) petition and appeale to his Ma^{ty} about disturbance given to their seditious meetings, where they meddle very much with private affaires. The Justices of the Peace are ordered to be putt out of Commission, to the great trouble of the loyall part of the country.

This afternoon my Lord Arlington, Lord Treasurer, Lord Ormond, and divers others of the nobility, are returned from the Fleete, which they say is now ready and very numerous, about 130 sayle; that yesterday the King dynd aboard the Sovereigne with the Prince, where Sir William Reeves commands as Captain; yet I cannot heare when they will sayle, the bad weather continuing; so that the

countrey complains much of want of all manner of provisions that must necessarily be in winter.

On Fryday last Sir Robert Moray dyned at my Lord Chancellor's and seemed very well, and about 5 in the afternoon, walkeing in the Privy Garden, and endeavouring to cough, returned to his chamber, to which he was scarce come, but was choaked with his flegme and dyed presently. On Saturday he was opened, and yesterday buryed in the Abby very handsomely, where the King sayes shall be a monument made for him att his Ma^{ties} charge.

The next day, which made some talk, the Queen going to Chappell, her coachman of a suddain swounded in the coach box and appeared dead, so that the Queen was much terry[fy]ed, but the fellow in little time recovered and is since pretty well.

His Ma^{ty} has sent his order to the Earle Marshall to seize Sir George Hewitt for sending a challenge to Ravenscroft, and to take the three brothers of them into custody for falling upon my Lord Buckhurst and his company, resolveing if possible to prevent those ill consequences which such disorders will produce.

Prince Rupert is made Generall of all the land forces, and Mons^r Schomberg his Lieut.-Generall, whose Commission is verbatim as the Duke of Bucks was, but the Prince's these following powers, as to be Generall and Commander of all the forces of this expedition both by sea and land, and attacque what place or part he please, to treat, parlie, and conclude to make all lawes and ordinances for the goverment of the same and to publish them by proclamation or otherwise, to punish all offenders with martiall law, life, member, or otherwise, to heare by himselfe or deputy all criminall causes in the said army and to judge them, to appoint a Provost Marshall, to conferr the honor of knighthood, to grant protections, saveguards, and passes generall or speciall, commanding all obedience to be paid him, and an inrollment of this Commission to be a discharge for all done by vertue thereof, the date 4 July. This of Mons. Schomberg administers some talke as if it would highly discontent the Duke of Buckingham, who is resolved not to goe under the Comte nor he

under him; the Duke of Monmouth's coming home, who will be here on Satturday next, will end all. His Grace is very little beloved by most here, especially in the countrye, where he has been hotly reported an atheist.

On Satturday night came to Southwarke 700 of his Grace's Yorkshire leavyes for recruits, all very likely young fellows, who this day are gone to Blackheath to receive armes and cloaths; the campe continues still there, but wee beleive they shall goe all to sea and not land at all. All yesterday (though Sunday) there was great working at the Tower about sending stores from thence to the fleete, and they have left very little now there.

My Lord Duke of Lauderdall, who went this day 7-night to the Bath, has not been very well there, so that they report he makes that his excuse there why he retires into his own country, but others say 'tis because the Duke of Ormond is taken into the Cabinett, &ca.

My Lord Willoughby who dyed at Barbadoes on the 10th of February past, has left that place they report in no good condition, nor are wee so carefull in our plantations as is requisite att this time, Sir Peter Colleton saying, if any foe should disturbe them, they want much provision and amunition. Sir Thomas Morgan or Sir Jonathan Atkins it's talked shall be sent over thither speedily. The letter from Barbadoes says that Mons. Baas went from Martinico the 12. of February with 5 of the French men of warr, of 70, 44, 24, 12, and 8 gunns, with 3 other vessells of 150 tun each, 14 great shallops, 300 men from thence, as many from St. Christopher's, 250 from Guadaloupe, and 350 soldiers from France, and 600 Buchainiers, expected to joyne with att Hispaniola, and vjctualled them for many months, which is reported is designed against the Spanyards, but first upon Corosoa, where the Dutch have no cavalrye. I know not whether this is proper or no, being forreigne newes, but if I erre I hope your Ex^{ty} will pardon it.

Att the signett is :—

Mr. Staples made Steward of Windsor Court, buying of it of Mr. Cooke.

Young Goldesborough Clerk of the House of Commons in reversion after his father, which pleases not the Members in Towne att all, thinkeing him very unfitt, his father intending now to resigne to him.

Mr. Lloyd the Manor of Westham in Essex, leased to him by the Queene's Trustees for 60 yeares. He is not yet sworne Clerke of the Councell, as he himselfe reported, and it's thought now will not, but they say Mr. Bridgman shall have it.

The Town continue to say my Lord Arlington is to be Chamberlain, and to give 10,000*l.* for it, and your Ex^{cy} Secretary; my Lady Bryan told me yesterday 'twas to be Sir Robert Carre, but it may be her Ladyship was but told so, as I have been too, but cannot beleive it.

I most humbly beg your pardon for this long schroole, which I desire your Ex^{cy} should not trouble yourselfe to reade, but to receive it as from one that is in all humility and respect, may it please your Excellency,

Your Ex^{cyes} most obedient servant,

HEN. BALL.

R 43.

No. 47.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord,

Whitehall, July 11th, 73.

The King having been twice in 8 days to visitt the flecte and abroad two post days, I come to have the favour of two of your Ex^{cies} to acknowledge together of the 1st and 4th instant S. N.

Last night Don Bernardo de Salinas,¹ who is come here with proposicions from Spaine and Holland, was brought to the King

¹ Don Bernardo de Salinas came over from Holland on the part of Spain, but without Spanish credentials, to endeavour to persuade the King of England to make a separate peace with the Dutch. He had letters from the Prince of Orange and from the Conde de Monterey, the Spanish governor of Flanders, which the King refused to receive. Salinas was handsomely treated, but had no success.—(Arlington to Sir W. Godolphin, July 24, 1673, in Arlington's Letters, ii. 422.) See Letter No. 52, p. 106.

by the Spanish Ambassador; the subject of his discourse to the King, and his Maties answer, my Lord's letter will acquaint you withall.

The fleet is not yet gone out though quite ready, because of the King's resolucion to send some land forces att the same time, for the imbarcacion of which they stay. Count Schomberg will command Captain Generall under the Prince, soe that I question whether the Duke of Buckingham being but Lieut.-Generall will goe this expedition. The King gives the Count blank commissions to make whom he will Major-Generall upon the place.

The Town talkes of great changes to bee amongst our Ministers and in the Councill, but noe considerable reasons occurre to mee to make mee to give much credit to these discourses, though I will not say but some of them may bee not ill grounded.

I am sorry to finde your Negotiacion advances soe slowly, and that the Sweedes seeme by their manner of proceeding to bee rather parties then mediators. I hope the Prince's good successe in the present expedicion will change the scene, and give us a peace to his Majesties satisfaction and honour, which I presume may bee hoped for. I have observed since the late Treaty between Sweden and Holland, Mons^r Leyenberg, Envoyé here from that Crowne, has not been so frequent in his visitts to my Lord, nor appeared so much in publicq att the Court as he did before; the reason I beleeeve may bee because he findes the generality of persons of all sorts and qualities are more then barely suspicious of his Master's proceedings in this present conjuncture, and I can assure you it would bee noe easie taske to endeavour to persuade the world here to the contrary, as well as of the sincerity of the French in observing their present Treaty with the King, which the King of France his dividing his army after the taking of Mاسترخت confirms them much in.

I have nothing else to trouble you withall but the assurance of of my being with great respect and truth, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull humble servant,

R $\frac{3}{4}$.

WM. BRIDGEMAN.

CAMD. SOC.

O

No. 48.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitchall, July 11. 1673.

On Wednesday last Mr. Yard received your Ex^{cia} of the 11th instant, am ample account of which hee gives your Ex^{ty} this night, only I do in all humility beg your Ex^{ty} would please to believe I doe not in the least neglect any of the commands you were pleased to give mee at your departure, and particularly your Ex^{cia} house, at which I spend most part of my time, unless that I must necessarily give to the business of the office. Yesterday my Lady O'Bryan was pleased to come thither and to give me notice to attend her Ladyship, which I did. Shee then saw the state of all things there, and was pleased to assure me that shee would this night satisfy your Ex^{ty} that every thing was very safe, and not the least danger or ill people that attend it; and for the woman that stole the coach cloath, I had put her off halfe a yeare before, as Mr. Thomas Williamson knowes, and Mr. Yard, immediately upon it, kept her but four dayes till he could gett another. I hope your Ex^{ty} will be pleased to pardon the length of this preamble, but I am so fearfull least your Ex^{ty} should thinke me any way ungratefull, that I am almost at my witt's end at the very imagination. But I have nothing to appeale to but your Ex^{cia} former kindness, and the witness of Dr. Lamplough and Sir Robert Carre how I have imployed my time in your Ex^{cia} absence, which I hope has been for my benefitt as to your favour.

At the Signett has been since Munday only a warrant for 8,394*l*. to the Lord Ranelagh and Lord Brereton out of the Excise, in consideration of so much due to their father in law, my late Lord Willoughby, which was by him expended in the late Dutch warr, and a new agreement and farme made of all the Excise in England and Wales for 3 yeares, to Dashwood, Vincent Bostocke, and partners, to commence in 1674, upon consideration of 30,000*l*. advanced, now as much more next October, and so quarterly, &c.

To morrow the campe at Blackheath breakes up, all the regiments going then aboard the colliers in the river, except the Duke of Albemarle's and the Lord Vaughan's; their officers are many of them this day in towne to provide for their journey, and seeme to grumble at their being sent away, and no provision taken for their pay, or places to putt their men conveniently in, they dislikeing much the colliers, as too strait by much for the quantity allowed each of them, viz^t, 500.

This morning was a meeting of the Cabinett, though the Towne report it to be quite broken and a new one forming; and it's now very hott, but pretended a secret, that wee shall have suddainly a new Lord Treasurer again, my Lord Osborne desireing not to hold no longer then the Duke of Buckingham shall thinke fitt, who they report to be much dissatisfyed of late as well at Mons^r Schomberg's advancement as at the Duke of Ormond's greatness in the management of affaires, so that he will lay downe not only his office of Master of the Horse, but his regiment also; the first of which Don Carlos shall have, the other the Duke of Monmouth; that Sir William Coventry shall be Lord Treasurer, and that the Chancellor does also not very well please the new great ones, but may also be persuaded to retire, and quite a new face of things to turne to the old Protestants againe; these storyes your Ex^{ty} will, I hope, excuse mee for troubling you with, but by them may be seen much of the humour of this time. It's also very briskly said that the Parliament shall meete in August next by proclamation suddainly to issue, and that the King will throw himselfe wholly upon them, and then the people say there will be good worke among the present managers of this warr, so much against the graine of the nation.

Yesterday, the Earle of Ossoryes daughter was married to the young Earle of Derby, who goes on Monday to travell for 3 yeares. This allyance is made by the Duke of Ormond to gaine an interest in the countyes where that Lord's family is very much esteemed.

Mr. Blood is now returned into England againe, and talkes very

high of his carriage in Ireland, where he was feared and admired beyond beleife.

Mr. Puckle has not been able to master the difficultyes of his ambition to be a Commissioner of the Navy; his Commission was with adoe gott as farr as the Great Seale, but there was quite stopt by the Duke of Yorke, upon the great clamour that it made about Town, so that he, rather then to contend, has been willing to lay by his claim, and will hope for a better thing; the people at Yarmouth give him a very unkind character, if he never deserved it.

Mr. Bulstrode's pardon past the Great Seale this day seaven-night without the least scruple or opposition.

Mr. Cooling,¹ upon discourse about the towne talke of my Lord Chamberlain's quitting, told me that he had asked my Lord in his chamber, who told him that he knew nothing of it, but sayd he himselfe had been told that he was to sell it for 10,000*l.* and that he answered, he would dye with the staffe; but Mr. Cooling sayes there has been some thoughts of it on my Lord's part, but now quite off againe.

Sir George Vyner, cousin to Sir Robert and son to old Sir Thomas, is lately dead, and to be buried in state 3 weekes hence.

This quarrell between Sir George Hewitt and Mr. Ravenscroft is not yet composed, nor the latter rendered themselves, his Majesty having commanded the Mareshall to make them peremptorily quitt his kingdomes if they come not in and be punished, which makes the Inns of Court men rayle horridly at the actions of the Court, and draw themselves into partyes to affront the courtiers any where, so that it's feared that foolish quarrell may have too ill consequences.

I feare I have been too tedious. I most humbly begg your Ex^{cyes} pardon, that am, in all humility, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R 36.

¹ Richard Cooling, secretary to the Earl of St. Alban's, Lord Chamberlain.

No. 49.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Ex^{cy},

Whitehall, 11 July, 1673.

I have received your Ex^{cies} of the 11 instant, and disposed of the enclosed according to your Ex^{cies} direction. In my last I gave your Ex^{cy} an account that on Saturday night the King and Duke went downe to the fleet; on Tuesday morneing early the King returned, and the Duke two tides after. It was expected that they would have seen the fleet under saile before they came from it, but it was, it seems, resolved otherwise; for though every body concludes that the fleet it selfe is ready to saile, yet it seems they are to take the forces from Blackheath with them, so that it will be Tuesday before they can saile. This day some of the regiments have begun to march, and to-morrow all the rest will follow, and that night they are to encamp upon Dartford heath, and the next day or Monday marched to Gravesend to embark there, where the vessells lye ready to receave them. Monsieur Scomberg haveing received his commission, hath taken upon him his command of Lieut.-Generall, and in that quality appeared this week severall times on Black heath, behaveing himselfe with that freenesse and civility amongst the officers that they seem all extreamely satisfied with this his Majesties choice. It is said that all the Collonells, vid^t, the Duke of Albemarle,¹ M. Worcester,² E. Ogle, E. Northampton,³ E. Mulgrave, Lord Vaughan,⁴ and Sir Walter Vane, and the Earle of Carlile, will goe with their regiments, or at least most of them.

¹ Christopher, second Duke of Albemarle, succeeded his father in January, 1669; he was afterwards appointed Governor of Jamaica, and he died there in 1687.

² Marquis of Worcester; third Marquis, succeeded his father, the mechanical philosopher, in 1667; was made Duke of Beaufort in 1682. See his praises under the name of Bezaliel in the Second Part of Absalom and Achitophel.

³ Third Earl of Northampton; had fought gallantly for Charles I. in the Civil War. He was made a Privy Councillor, March 7, 1672. He died in December, 1681.

⁴ Lord Vaughan, eldest surviving son of the Earl of Carbery. His elder brother, first husband of Rachael, Lady Russell, had died in 1667, and he then became Lord Vaughan.

The Duke of Bucks, it is said, will lay downe his commission of Collonell, being dissatisfied that he has not a commission for Lieutenant Generall, in which his honor seems to be concerned, because he hath taken upon him, in confidence of that command, to exercise the regiments upon Blackheath, though, as I am certainly told, very much to the dissatisfaction of the officers.

It was it seems once resolved that a good traine of artillery should have accompanied these forces, to have been commanded by Sir Thomas Chichely, though now that resolution is changed, the King haveing directed that onely six small feild pieces shall be sent, to be drawne by men; the other besides the trouble of horses and the noise it made not being thought so necessary.

Some persons of quality, and particularly the Duke of Yorke, have been so much concerned at the Commission which was passing to Mr. Puckle to be one of the Commissioners of the Navy, that they have at last stopt it at the Great Seale, so that he is putt by his great expectation; however, he is promised to be recompensed some other way.

This week the Earle of Derby was married to the Earle of Ossory's eldest daughter.

Yesterday arrived here Don Bernardo de Salinas from the Hague, and has had audience of the King and will suddainely returne againe. It is said he comes to desire a cessation of armes.

And now I will, with your Ex^{ties} pardon, give your Ex^{ty} an account of the newes of the Towne. In the first place they say that great matters are to be expected from the Parliament at their next Session, which, by reason of the weighty affairs now depending, is to be two months sooner then was intended, and that accordingly a Proclamation is coming out to call them together the next month. In the mean time that the Lord Treasurer is not long lived, in relation to his employment, but that before the Parliament meets he is to resigne, and Sir William Coventry¹ to be brought in his

¹ Sir William Coventry, son of the Lord Keeper Coventry, and brother of Henry, the Secretary of State. He had been Secretary of the Duke of York as Lord High Admiral, and a Commissioner of the Treasury. After Clarendon's fall in 1667, he

roome by the Duke of Ormond's interest; that the Duke of Lauderdale will retire into Scotland, and come hither no more, and abundance of stories more like these; this is the discourse of those that pretend to be the soberest, whilst, in the mean time, others that mingle gaul with all they say, take a far greater liberty, and talke things not fitt to be committed to paper, or indeed for any discreet person to regard; and for my one particular, I doe againe beg your Ex^{cies} pardon that I give your Ex^{cy} the trouble of readeing this Towne talke.

Mr. Newcomb will take care to pay the 200*l.* so soone as he receives your Ex^{cies} bill. I have called upon him for 35*l.*, which is the summe, except some odd money the wine which your Ex^{cy} sent for from Quinborough, and the charges, came to. As to my behaviour in the office, I humbly beg leave to assure your Ex^{cy} that it is with the greatest diligence and caution, not to give those offence who I know would be glad of any the least occasion to doe me ill office, for no other reason I am sure, then that I am your Ex^{cies} servant, and I will endeavor they shall never have any other; and whatever their carriage is, mine shall always correspond with the duty of, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R $\frac{2}{3}$.

NO. 50.—FROM FRANCIS LORD HAWLEY.¹

Sir,

The 14th of Julye, London.

After my hearty commendations remembred, I salute in the good old ways of oure ancestors; I shall acquaynt you that I have received your letter of the 24th of June, new styll; it was longe in

was thought likely to succeed him as virtual Prime Minister, but a quarrel with the Duke of Buckingham put him out of favour with the King and out of office. He was a man of great ability and high character. He died in 1686.

¹ An Irish Peer: he was Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the Duke of York.

its passadg; when it came to my veiwe it was kindly entertaynd, and after I had perused it, I shew it his royall Highnesse, whoe is verrey well satisfi'd with your duty and kindnesse to him. For news thus: my Lady Betty Buttler was marry'd to my Lord Darbye Thursday last. The Duke Lotheday has sold his place as Gentleman of his Bedchamber to his Majestye for six thousand pounds. Yesterday the army decamp't at Blackheath and march'd to Gravesend, in order to be there immediatly shipp'd; 'tis the six new rayst regiments that are to imbarke, and there are already seventy five companys in the flecte. The new regiments imbarke in severall colliers his Majestie has hyrd, but whether all this force is designed is to us standdard by unknowen; assoone as these men are put aboarde the Prynce put to sea, which I beleve wilbe by Thursday or Fryday next. His Flecte is a hundred and tenn men of warr, besydes fire shippes, which are forty. Mounsieur Shamburgh is made Leyftennant Generall and commands this armye under the Prynce.

M^{rs} Wells has declared her marryage with M^r Thomas Winddham the Querey, and her Majestye has made her one of her dressers. Sir Robert Longe¹ dyed a Satterday last, and this day I saywe Sir Robert Howard sworne in his place,² and my Lord Treasurer Secretary wilbe Captayne Chearle Berttye;³ tis a mightye discours that my Lord Chamber is to have tenn thousand pownds for his place, and my Lord Arlingston is to have the place, and you are to be on of the principall Secretary to his Majestye. I doe not tell you this for a truth, as it is the discourse of many pretenders that undertake to make discoveryes. Sir, I have mannaged this letter, lycke romance wrytters that some time leave the greate concerne of

¹ Sir Robert Long had been Private Secretary of Charles I.; was made a Baronet in 1662.

² Sir Robert Howard succeeded Sir Robert Long as Auditor of the Exchequer. See note, p. 49

³ Charles Bertie, brother of the Earl of Lindsey, and brother-in-law of Osborne the new Lord Treasurer. He was M.P. for Stamford.

the Knyght and Lady to discourse of gentlewomen, even soe I have minggled my discourss which I hope wilbe acceptable, since 'tis addressed to you from on that is soe perfectly

Your fast friend and very humble servant

FRA. HAWLEY.

NO. 51.—FROM JAMES VERNON.¹

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 14th July.

My Lord Duke,² arrived here last Saturday night, is found an extreme good wellcome from his Majesty and the Court. He tooke his leave of the King³ at Chastelet and went the same day to Reins and from thence to Quesnoy, the next day to Arras, thence to Hesdin, so to Boulogne. On Fryday last he arrived at Calais, where he embarked the same day, and landed at Deale on Saturday morning. The people do nothing but confer honors upon him. They will have him to be Master of the Horse in the Duke of Buckingham's place, Commissioner of Scotland in my Lord Lauderdale's, and Generall of the land forces.

I shall not pretend to write any news to your Excellency, since it is all sent you from your Ex^{ty}s office. His Grace is pleased that I should still continue with him, where I beg the honor of any of your Ex^{ty}s commands. I am, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most faithfull servant,

J. VERNON.

My Master.

NO. 52.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 14 July, 1673.

Wee have your Ex^{cies} of the 13 instant; the enclosed for my Lady Katherine I delivered to her Ladiship this morneing. In my

¹ Became Under-Secretary of State in 1692.

² The Duke of Monmouth.

³ The King of France.

last I told your Ex^{cie} that it was intended that the regiments should have marched on Saturday from Blackheath, which was however deferred till yesterday, when they decamped, the King, Duke, and Duke of Monmouth being there present, and marched towards Dartford Heath, where they were to lodge that night, and this day proceed to Gravesend to imbarke there. All the Collonells as I am informed goe along with there forces, except the Marquis of Worcester and the Earle of Northampton, who stay at home by the King's order. The Duke of Bucks has layd downe his commission of Collonell, and his recruits which he raised lately in the North are not marched with the rest of the forces, but lye still here in Towne. Some say that the Duke of Monmouth will have the command of this regiment, and succeed him in his place of Master of the Horse to the King.

To-morrow morneing the King goes downe to the fleet., which they now say will saile on Thursday next without fail, but wee have been so often told of their resolution to saile, from one day to another, that people will hardly beleive it till they hear they are at sea.

All the news of the Towne is, of the haughty (if not rude) language used to the King by Don Bernardo de Salinas, in his audience, he having, as it is said, told the King that they all knew the necessities he was reduced to, and that he would not be able to maintaine the warre three months longer, and that his onely expedient to free himselfe from [it was] to breake his alliance with France, &ca.

I hope your Ex^{ty} will pardon me that I entertaine you with such impertinent talke, which I onely doe to let your Ex^{ty} know the discourse of the Towne.

Yesterday morneing dyed Sir Robert Long, after a long and lingering disease, and this day Sir Robert Howard was sworne into his place; it is discoursed as if Sir Thomas Meers was to succeed him in the Secretary's place to the Lord Treasurer.

The Lord Clifford nor the Duke of Lauderdaill are not a yet returned out of the country, and the discourse is that wee shall see them in Towne noe more. The weather continues very wett and unseasonable.

Severall strang and extravagant reports passe up and downe the Towne, which I dare not presume to trouble your Ex^{cy} with ; and therefore shall humbly conclude with my prayers for your Ex^{cies} successe and prosperity, as becomes, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull and most obedient obliged servant,
R. YARD.

NO. 53.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 14, 1673.

In obedience to your Ex^{cies} commands, I have presumed ever since your departure to present your Ex^{cy} with whatever came to my knowledge, which I hope your Ex^{cy} has received, and I am so conscious of my failings therein, that I cannot enough implore your Ex^{cies} pardon.

On Satturday morning last, his Majesty, Royall Highness, and their usuall attendance, went downe to Blackheath in order to see the campe breake up, and stayed there till night ; but that day happened little there, more then putting the men in order and preparing for their march. Yester morning early his Majesty went again with the Duke and the Duke of Monmouth, who arrived late the night before ; they saw them march most away to lodge last night at Deptford in their way to Gravesend, where they imbarque. His Majesty returned yester noone, and they say goes once more to-morrow morning to see the fleete, and then they goe away for the sea ; people talke much of the suddain motions used now and of want of care, for a boate went they say from Harwich

Saturday night with Dutch men for Holland, who would doubtless give them alarame enough, and perhaps an account of our designes. The Duke of Monmouth wants no carresses to bid his welcome and to helpe it forward; the people will have him made Vice Roy or Commiss^r of Scotland, Lieut. Generall, and whatever else can be imagined. The rumour of the Caball being broken continues, and Sir Wm. Coventry to be Treasurer, Bridgwater¹ Chancellor, and the Lord Roberts² sent for to be Privy Seale, with severall other strange reports as various as untrue: but most say your Ex^{ty} is to be Secretary, before the Parliament, of which there is great expectations.

Yesterday morning dyed Sir Rob. Long, and this day Sir Robert Howard sworne into his place, upon which, being to leave his owne office, there are two that is said stand in competition for the place, Mr. Bertie late Envoye to Denmarke, and Sir Tho. Meres, who they say must be stopt with this or he will not be silent at the Parliaments meeting, and he is the likeliest to have it, so that Mr. Wolsely is going to be made a Commissioner for wine licenses, and all the others to find new concernes. The unseasonable weather continues, and a very ill prophesy which is inclosed broached about, and does much hurt by the ill reflections made on the affaires now; the people are very jealous that the French treate separately and will leave us out, and that wee shall be forced either to have an ugly peace or a Carthage warr. My Lord Clifford is not yet returned from Tunbridge nor Duke of Lauderdale from the Bath.

¹ John, second Earl of Bridgwater, had been made a Privy Councillor in 1666; he was a man of learning. Shaftesbury was Lord Chancellor, though not a professional lawyer; and others were spoken of in this and following reigns for the Great Seal, who were not lawyers, as the Earl of Orrery, Earl of Anglesea, Earl of Mulgrave.

² Lord Roberts had been one of the Presbyterian leaders in the great Civil War. After the Restoration, he was made Lord Privy Seal, and in 1669 Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He was later created Earl of Radnor, and in October 1679 he succeeded the Earl of Shaftesbury as Lord President of the Council.

My Lord Canterbury¹ and Lord Hallifax² are said to be taken into the new Caball. I am in all due respect and humility, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cy}s most humble and obedient servant,
HEN. BALL.

NO. 54.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 14, 1673.

Not knowing of the comeing away of this express till 8 this night, I could not give my Lady O'Bryan an account till just now, which when her Ladyship heard, shee was pleased to send me this inclosed, commanding me to present her service to your Ex^{cy}, and that shee had not time now to send your Ex^{cy} what was promised by her Ladyship, and intended by the first express, but will not fayle of doing it by the next. Your Ex^{cy}s house continues safe, and no appearance of danger I hope. Sir Robert Carr, I heare, intends to returne suddainly three weekes sooner then he first intended. The Duke of Buckingham, they say, will lay downe his commissions and office, and is said to be much discontented. A pleasant rediculous story is this weeke blazed about, that the King had given Nell Gwinn 20,000*l.*, which angrying much my Lady Cleaveland³ and Mademoiselle Carwell, they made a supper at Berkshire House, whither shee being invited was, as they were drinking, suddainly almost choaked with a napkin, of which shee was since dead; and this idle thing runs so hott that Mr. Philips askt me the truth of it, beleiving it, but I assured him I saw her yester night in the Parke. The people say there has been 100,000*l.*

¹ Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury. He had been a member of the Cabinet in 1664. (Pepys, March 2, Nov. 8, 1664.)

² The famous George Savile, now Baron, afterwards successively Earl and Marquis of Halifax. He was now forty years of age. He had been joint plenipotentiary with Buckingham and Arlington in the summer of 1672 to the King of France.

Duchess of Cleveland, formerly Lady Castlemaine.

given away within these last five weekes, so ready are they to blaze pernicious lyes. I dare not trouble your Ex^{cy} further then by begging your pardon for all my errours, being most humbly, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most humble and obedient servant,
HENRY BALL.

NO. 55.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, July 14, '73.

Your Excellency is pleased to honour mee with such punctuall correspondence, that nothing can excuse mee from paying my humble acknowledgements at least, and particularly for that of the $\frac{3}{14}$ inst. which came with your Ex^{cies} other dispatches to my Lord Arlington yesterday; that dispatch in generall consisted of two joint letters from your Ex^{cies} of the $\frac{3}{13}$, and one particular from yourselfe of the $\frac{1}{14}$, the cypher of all which, and all preceding ones, hath proved soe true that I gave noe occasion of complaint more then what all cyphering produces, being sometimes little mistakes, for which I hope your Ex^{cy} will pardon mee when they happen in his Lordshipp's dispatches. It happens this night to bee very late that our courier goes hence; his Lordshipp being to goe to-morrow morning early to the Fleet with the King, hath spent soe much of his time in other necessary occasions that it could not otherwise bee. The King resolves now to see it under sayle, having taken five meales; and the 17th being the day the King is expected home makes us conclude that will be the day of the fleet's sayling. The delay of it hath beene occasioned by the gathering together the land forces that were to bee put on board, which marched yesterday from Blackheath, and are by this time all in their proper vessells. God grant us good successe, which, as in humane probability, wee may justly hope for from a fleete that hath not had its equall from

England, soe wee trust in God it may put a happy end to your Ex^{cies} negociacion.

Sir Robert Long being dead, Sir Robert Howard is sworne in his place. I am told Mr. Bertie (who was Envoye in Denmark) is to succcede this later in the Treasury.

My Lord of Derby's marriage with the Earl of Ossory's daughter is over.

Fonseca, the Spanish Consul, is still in the Gatehouse, in requitall of the imprisonment of Sir Martin Wescombe at Cadiz; the Spanish Ambassador takes it much to heart, and upon it takes every little occasion of making complaints, as that some 7 or 8 ships of the Spanish Low Countries have beene prest for the service of the Fleet, &c. but his complaints have little in them.

I must still end with begging pardon for scribling, and not having time to enlarge, which I am sure the bearer will testify for mee. By the next you shall receive a duplicate of this dispatch, as by this your Ex^{cy} has one of his Lordshipp's last of the 11th. It is soe late that 'tis not possible to procure his Lordshipp's attestation of it, otherwise it had gone by the ordinary of this night; if this arrive there will bee noe need of it, but I mention it that your Ex^{cy} may know, if it come not, it is not by our fault.

I beg leave to owne myselfe, my Lord,

Your Excellencyes most humble and most devoted servant,

J. RICHARDS.

56.—FROM JAMES HICKS.

May it please your Excellency,

London, July 18, 73.

I hope myne of the 4 instant, in which I gave you account of our Archers feast held the first of this month, and that your Ex^{cy} and Sir Joseph Sheldon were then chosen Stewards for the insueing yeare of 1674, and in your absence I was pitched upon and drunck

unto by Sir John Robinson to appere and hold for you in your absence, which honor and favour I could not refuse, for the obedience and service I owe, yet hope your health and returns wilbe such, that your personall presence wilbe there to the content and desires of the Bow, who by my pen present you their most humble service and well wishes, &c.

Sir, yours of the 1st came to my hand the 8th. Every soule enjoyeth to here of your health with whom I convers, and in perticular Col. Whitey your most humble servant, as well as my selfe and myne. Your servants at Whithall are dilligent in your buissines passing my hands, and I hope you find them soe in your greater concerns.

Sir, for news or towne discourse I must not pretend to know much, being I visitt not Tavernes nor Coffey houses, nor doe I converse much with any persons that doe; and to tell you his Royal Highness hath layd downe his Commission, and my Lord Tresurer Clifford given up his staff, I beleive is noe news to you, and the various discourses occasioned thereby, and soe outright and possibly dangerous that the same in at one care and runn thorough.

Sir, to tell you you were returned for England about the tyme my I received yours, and that the Treatie was off, and you had done nothing, I should tell you noe more but what for severall days was reported and by many beleived.

About the same tyme nothing was more hotter discoursed then Lord Arlington laying doune his ministeriall office of Secretarie off State, and my Lord Chamberlin his; that my Lord Arlington would be Lord Chamberlin (which semeth a strang chang to me), that Sir Joseph Williamson was to be Secretarie of State, in a day or two after Sir Robert Carr was to be Secretarie of State.

Since these discourses vanished, a hott and strange report in Citty and Countrey, that the French and the Dutch were agreed, that the French squadron had left the Prince, and the French King gon to Paris, and much such discours runns up and down as to the

affaires in Court and of the treatie, but this I have given in return for your inquiry after towne talke, which, with all imaginable respects, is all at present from, Sir,

Your Ex^{cys} most humble and obedient servant,

JAMES HICKS.

July the 21, '73.

Sir, this should have gone towards you the last post, but deferd, hereing reports that the French squadron refused to sayle and engage under the Prince; but what the occasion of that report was, I question not but you have fully from better hands. The fleet of 190 odd saile wee hope are now on the cost of Holland.

NO. 57.—FROM SIR JOHN ROBINSON, BART.

Deare brother,

Tower, London, 18 July (73).

There hath happn'd nothing of moment since my last, otherwise you had heard from me; yesterday was interr'd Sir John Smith with great solemnity; the hospitall boyes, the liveries of his Company, the Artillery Company, the Court of Aldermen, besides mourners and all private freinds; there were twelve banners, and large rings given. There's a rich widow left, which you may consider of. We have gott never a Sheriff yet to match Mr. Linsey; severall have been chosen, but gott of by swearing or paying their mony. The last that gott of was Mr. Colwell, a searcher at the Custome Howse, and he that is now chosen is one Wilcox, a brewer, they say a troublesome person; wheither he will hold or noe, I cannot tell.

There was, not long since, an addresse prepared by a Committee of some of the Aldermen and Commoners appointed by Common Councell to consider of the aggreivances of the City, to be presented to his Majesty. It consisted of a great many perticulers, large and

long, relating the poverty of the Citty, the want of inhabitants by erecting of new buildings without the liberties of the Citty round aboute, the dearness of coales for want of convoyes, marchants that are noe freemen trading within and without the City, the declining estate of the City; in fine it was soe ill compos'd and penn'd in my weake judgm^t, that it did not say lesse then that the Government of the Citty would not long subsist; this was voted by the Common Councell to be presented to the King, though enough was said against it in pointe of timing of the thing, which I first propos'd, and had severall Aldermen to second me; I look't upon it to be too much a remonstrance to our enemies of the weaknesse of the Citty, and of noe good humour; my Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the Committee were to deliver this addresse, viz^t, Sir John Lawrance, Sir William Turner, Sir William Hooker, Sir Robert Cleyton; added to them, Sir Thomas Player, and the Common Sarjant. This was a bratt of our freinds begetting to continue popularity, which he was very fond of; it was carryed on by him and the three aforementioned Aldermen, and severall comoners that cabal'd together. Noe time being appointed for the carrying this addresse upp, it came in debate in the Court of Aldermen the next court afterwards; they being sensible of the inconvenient time of presenting it, were all with me unanimously against it, which I was hartily gladd of, where it now rests asleepe. By this action I incurr'd the displeasure of Mr. Thompson our freind, &c. of the Comoners.

There hath two greate fyers happn'd lately in the Tower Hamletts, one in Wapping, where was above 200 howses burnt, thother at Shadwell, where was burnt some fifty. These two fyers gave a great discomposure to me, and somewhat impair'd my health.

Sir George Vyner and his Lady are both dead, tenn dayes one of another, with a dropsie, it is said, of drincking.

This was intended you according to the date, since which I have yours of the 1st of July, by which and meeting with Mr. Francis, I was most hartily gladd to heare of your health; I can assure you that you are not forgotten in the publique or private meetings of

your bretheren and other your freinds. You need not doubt of your interest with us when its now greater then ever, though you are at a distance from us ; wee have a greate while since voted you inevitably Secretary of State at your returne, and we keepe it upp and doe say amongst ourselves we will have it soc.

I pray my humble service to his Ex^{ty} your brother, and my good freind Mr. Weekes. I am almost in as badd a condicion as I was this time three yeares as you may remember, when I went downe to Farmingwoods, and yesterday I have askt leave to goe thither now, and all there present their service to you. I may goe once in a weekes time, where I question not but I shall regaine my health againe. Not having else, I kisse your hands and remaine

Your most affectionate brother and most faithfull servant,

J. ROBINSON.

Tower, 29^o July (73).

R Aug. $\frac{7}{17}$.

NO. 58.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 18^o, 1673.

Since my last on Monday very little hath happened extraordinary. On Tuesday morning last his Majesty, Royall Highness, my Lord Arlington, Mr. Speaker, and divers persons of quality, went down to the fleete, which has been ever since fitting out, and the men to land putt aboard the vessells for that purpose; the Earle of Carlisle with the other Collonells went away also that morning, except the Earle of Northampton and the Marquis of Worcester. This day at one the King returned againe, the Duke yesterday. All things relateing to our intentions in this expedition are not talkt publicly; some say they will land at Dunkirk, and there abouts remaine till winter and be reinforced by French, but others that wee shall goe directly over and land some where about the Maes, our fleete being strong enough to sett the men ashoare and leave 20 frigatts for a

guard, and to fight the Dutch fleete at the same time. Our number in all are said to be neare 300, and the land force 14,000 men, besides 150 horse, one of the Earl of Oxford's regiments. The men are victualled for 3 months and so are all the ships. Dr. Stubb is they say made Phisitian Generall to the army, and 20^s per diem his fee.

There is a malicious and hott report, that this army shall only land at Dunkirke and so reinforce the French King's army; which the people much grumble at, and thinke all helpes too much for them, and say wee have done them too much good already. And to heighen this report severall little papers are read privately of Don Bernard de Salina's propositions to the King, and how he told him that they were well enough satisfyed with the dissatisfactions of the people with the warr, and that the Parliament would give no more money, and that there was no way to make himselfe happy but to relinquish France, and then the Spanish Ambassador had propositions to make him for the great benefitt of himselfe and Kingdome, &c. which has great impressions upon the commonalty, and that was the cause they say the soldiers were ready to mutiny at their decamping at Blackheath, only upon a report of their uniting with the French army; every one takes the liberty to talke what the Parliament will do next Sessions, nay some of them talke very suspitiously and say they wonder who durst print the Articles of Warre, but that none dare putt them in execution, and indeed they have not yet been proclaimed. They scruple the oath in it, and say that to sweare at large to obey the King's commands is strange, for then he may command things which the persons that doe them shall afterward be hanged. The words of this horrid oath as they call it is: I, A. B. swear to be true and faithfull to my soveraign King Charles and to his heires and lawfull successors, and to be obedient in all things to his Generall or Lieut. Generall for the time being, and will behave my selfe obediently towards my superior officers in all they shall command me for his Majestyes service; and I doe further sweare that I will be a true, faithfull, and obedient servant

and soldier, every way performing my best endeavours for his Majestyes service, obeying all orders, and submitting to such rules and articles of warr, as are or shall be established by his Majesty, so helpe, &c.

This gives no small disturbance to most of the Members of Parliament already. They say, no more money they thinke can be raised unless an account is given of what is already spent; these are the Town talke now. The Duke of Buckingham every one sayes will goe out of all his offices, and that he will retire into the country. His regiment would not goe to sea without him; they are now 1,500 good men. Last night marcht towards Rochester (and to be a recruite of men if occasion, or to be presently taken in) the Duke of Albemarle's and Lord Vaughan's regiments, which at first thought they were to stay att home. To-morrow the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are summoned to meete in the Councill Chamber to open their Commission. Now its past, the commission for wine lycences is renewed, and a new one given to Sir John Griffith, Sir Philip Froude, Mr. Warcupp, Mr. Downes, Mr. Robert Wolseley, and Mr. Wm. Young, 200*l.* each sallery. Mr. Bertue was yesterday owned Secretary to my Lord Treasurer, and has taken into Mr. Wolseley's roome one Mr. Fleetewood, a relation of the Provost of King's Colledge in Cambridge; Sir Thomas Meeres was in towne expecting it, but they say he shall be better provided for before October. The report of my Lord Chamberlain's removall revives again now upon the sight of a letter sent by his Lordship to Father Goffe at Paris, wherein they say he tells him that he was still entangled in his Court cares, but now would suddainly quitt them (being well offered) and retire to contemplate a little before he left this world, for he found himselfe decay much; upon which the rumour is, your Excellency must give my Lord Arlington 6,000*l.* und the King 4,000*l.* to satisfy my Lord Chamberlain, and Mr. Bridgman to buy your Ex^{cys} office in the Councill at its utmost rate. But for these rambling storyes, I most humbly beg your Ex^{cys} pardon for troubling you with them,

which I should not do, but that your Ex^{cy} should see the Town was never fuller of talke and reflections upon all actions. Yesterday Sir John Smith was buried with a very great shew and gallantry, Sir George Vyner privately the Wednesday before, and Sir Robert Long not these 20 dayes, and publicuely, and has left for his heire his brother's son, now Sir Wm. Long, and a very vast estate. My Lord Duke of Lauderdall's gentleman came this day to tell me his Lordship had bid him enquire of your Ex^{cyes} health, and present you with his respects; he continues still at the Bath. Sir Christopher Musgrave commands me to lett your Ex^{cy} know the same from him, which he had done himselfe had there been any thing worth the trouble. My Lady O'Bryen goes to-morrow morning to Billing, but for a very short time her Ladyship sayes. I went to know her commands, and shee told me shee would write and send me. The farmers of the Excise have now past their patent, and are to pay 530,000*l.* per ann. for the Excise in England for 3 yeares. In all humility I lay myselfe at your Ex^{cyes} feete, beseeching you to beleive I am in all duty, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cyes} most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R ^{24 July.}
_{3 Aug.}

NO. 59.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 18 July, 1673.

On Monday last Mr. Barry went hence with the ordinary with dispatches for your Excellency, and I doubt not but will come to your Ex^{cy} in good time. That evening the forces embarked at Gravesend, and the next morneing early the King, the Duke of Yorke, my Lord Arlington, with several other of the Lords (the same morneing, the Duke of Monmouth went to More Parke, and returned Wednesday in the evening), went downe to the Fleet to take their last resolutions. Yesterday, at noone, the Duke came up againe, and said that the Fleet sailed that morneing. His Royall

Highnesse dined at the Duke of Monmouth's, who were together most of the afternoone; it being observed by those that are nere his Royall Highnesse that he has a particular kindnesse and affection for his Grace, upon whom, indeed, all the world now looks as a rising sun; many will have him to be Master of the Horse in the roome of the Duke of Bucks, who, in the generall opinion, is now declining in his interest at Court, and some adde that the former grudge between him and the Earle of A.¹ is now broken out againe into a declared enmity. The Chancelor seems to have a great hand in all that is now done, though in Towne it has been reported that he was to be removed too, but I know not upon what ground.

That the Duke of Monmouth shall goe Commissioner into Scotland seems more certaine, and almost not doubted, the Duke of Lauderdale having in all men's opinion playd his game to an end.

I am assured that all the collonells are gone to sea except Bucks, Worcester, and Northampton; for though the Duke of Albemarle and the Lord Vaughan's regiments are left behind, for what reason I know not, yet they themselves are on bord the Fleet, and will goe to sea. The recruitts raised by the Duke of Bucks, being between 5 and 600 men, are marched againe northwards, and, it is said, are to be putt into garrison in Hull, and other places in those parts.

I formerly told your Ex^{ty} that Mons^r Scombergh was made Lieutenant-Generall; since, his commission has been altered, and the quality of Captaine Generall given him to command all the King's forces employed in this summer's expedition under the Prince as Generall; he has, besides, two blank commissions for Major Generalls to be by him filled up according as the King shall direct. Who they will be wee as yet know not, but the generall opinion is that the most experienced Collonells will be made choice of.

On Monday last Prince Rupert had advice brought him by his tenders that the Dutch fleet was againe upon our coast, which brought the allarme to Towne, though wee since find it to have been a mistake.

¹ Arlington.

Sir Robert Howard being now sworne Auditor of the Excheq^r, his place of Secretary to the Lord Treasurer is, after much competition, disposed of to Mr. Bartue, the Earl of Lindsey's brother.

In Towne, people are very jealous of the French; say they either have or will suddainely make a peace with the Dutch and exclude us; and wish for peace because they think no body getts by the warr but those they would not; should expect great matters from the next session of Parliament, who, they say, will examine how things have been caried, and will call those to a severe account whom they find in fault, and many other impertinent discourses of the same nature. And now I must beg leave to tell your Ex^{cy} that they have married your Ex^{cy} to the widow of Sir John Smith, who was buried yesterday with great solemnity; against your Ex^{cys} returne they reckon the strictnesse of her mourning will be over, and then overtures will be made, and the rest follow, of which they seem to be so certaine, that they will not have it doubted.

This day at noone the King came to Towne; his servants confirme that the Fleet sailed yesterday morneing, the King goeing with them in his yacht as far as the middle ground, where he came to an ankor, and stayd till the whole Fleet passed by; God Almighty give them successe!

I am told my Lord does not write to your Ex^{cy} this night, and it is thought the packett boat may be stopt; however, I thought it my duty not to omitt writeing.

I humbly beg your Ex^{cys} pardon, and the continuance of your favor and protection to, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull, obedient, and most gratefull servant,

R. YARD.

R ^{24 July.}
_{3 Aug.}

No. 60.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 21, 1673.

In my last to your Ex^{cy} on Fryday I made bold to trouble you with what then occurred, since which I heare my Lady O'Bryan goes not to Billing till this day or to-morrow morning; I went to know her Ladyship's commands, but shee was not at home. Yesterday my Lord Chancellor at church was taken so ill as to swound twice, so that he was carryed home very sicke, but this day came to the meeting of the Committee of the Admiralty. My Lord Treasurer made his excuse yesterday also upon the account of illness, and it's said Mr. Coventry is sick too, and the Duke of Buckingham keepest house, which gives great matter for discourse. Since the going out of the Fleete, wee heare that on Fryday his Highness held a Councell of Warr, and there delivered Schomberg his Commissions for Major Generalls; and gave out the Articles of Warr, and then it was resolved to sayle to the head of the Galloper, and from thence to send some small frigatts to observe the posture of the 'enemy. A small accident happened that day which has caused much talke; the Greyhound, one Clements Captain, came it seemes through all the fleete with a flagge upon her top-mast, which amased all the fleete; the Prince sent a boate to have her strike, and seeing it returne without successe fired a gun at it, upon which it was taken down presently, after which the Captain coming on board, declared he was ordered by Monsieur Schomberg to do it, that it might be known where he was and that it was one of my Lord Mulgrave's ensignes.¹ The Captain was putt in the bilboes and then pardoned, but this will cause it's feared a misunderstanding

¹ Sheffield, Duke of Buckinghamshire (Earl of Mulgrave), gives an account of this incident in his "Memoirs in the reign of Charles II." He is the Mulgrave who was with Schomberg, and whose flag was used. He attributes to annoyance on account of this affair Prince Rupert's ordering all the land forces under Schomberg's command to Yarmouth, "where they lay encamped all the summer by the sea-side, without being ever reimbarcked, or able to do the least service; M. de Schomberg

between the Prince and him. The whole discourse of the Towne is of the jealousy of the French, and in the Citty great complaints of want of ships to fetch coales for the winter, which are only hindred for want of passes. The East Indya ship the Faulcon (lately taken) came this day from Amsterdam and tells the Town they live there in as great plenty as possible, and fearless, the land being drayned round about them; that they slight us much, and say they will scarce give us peace, much less townes. Captain Dean was this day sent by his Majesty to buy up all anchors, cordage, &ca., with all speed for the use of his ships. Sir Thomas Modiford presses hard for his liberty,¹ the Duke of Albemarle having ingaged to his Majesty in 20,000*l.* bond for his appearance upon all occasions, and had then his liberty promised him, since which he presses again, alleadging that my Lord Arlington stopt it by a complaint of the Spanish Ambassador's of something done since, which he utterly denies, so that in three weekes he is said hee shall be free; he thanks the King highly for the favour to his son, who is restored to the Governor of Jamaica's kindness, and made Governor of Port Royall the place of greatest strength there. The Marchants are highly incenced against Sir Martin Westcomb at Cadiz, and intend to petition to turne him out, as they do also against Consull Maynard att Lisbone. They clamour much at the deadness of trade, and that now our sole strength is ventured at one blow. My Lord Peterborough they say has been sent to looke upon the Dutchesse of Newbourgh for the Duke of Yorke.² There are some

obeyed, but took no leave of the Prince, and engaged me personally to carry him a challenge after the expedition was over, which the King prevented, though not out of kindness to either of them."

¹ Sir Thomas Modiford was Governor of Jamaica in 1671, when a raid was made from thence by buccaneers under Morgan on the Spanish possessions of Chagres and Panama in the Central American Isthmus, and he was recalled for alleged connivance with the buccaneers, and on his return home sent a prisoner to the Tower to give satisfaction to Spain. His son in the meantime was imprisoned for him. (Arlington's Letters, ii. 327.)

² See note on Letter No. 7, p. 13, where a reference is made by mistake to letter No. 59; it should be No. 60, this letter.

horrid storyes in the Towne which I dare not trust by the ordinary post, and hope my letters miscarry not, I sending every post. They say my Lord of Northampton is very angry he had not a field command in this expedition, at least a regiment of horse. A report runs about the Town this day that our fleete is ingaged, the guns having been heard both at Sandwich and Deale Saturday afternoone. At the Signett, since my Lord Clifford's pardon (which they say is *sans pareill*, it being for thought, word, and deed, in any kind whatsoever with more particulars then ever were said before,) has been only a re-grant to Mr. Culliford of his office of Register of all the Seizures in the Custome House, augmenting his sallery from 100*l*. to 200*l*. per annum. Mr. Deerham has gott a great office, but as yet I cannot learn what it is, he keeping it private. Sir Wm. Lockhart I heare desires to be Ambassador at Paris, not being so well able to do his Majesty service with his new charecter, and Mr. Warwick,¹ Sir Philip's son, presses to be sent envoy thither, though it were but on a compliment on that King's returne from the Leaguer.²

I have not further to trouble your Ex^{ty} than with the tender of my duty and most humble acknowledgments for the continuance of your favours to me, and that I shall ever make it my endeavour, both in thought, word, and deed, to be, may it please your Ex^{ty},

Your Ex^{cies} most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALLE.

Since the writing of this, I just now received a letter from a captain in the Earle of Mulgrave's regiment aboard the Greyhound of the 20th inst., who sayes, Mons. Schomberg was aboard him, and with all the colliers (where the army were) were come on Sunday into Yarmouth roade where they were to ride till further order from his Majesty or the Prince, who that day went for the coast of

¹ Sir Philip Warwick had been in the service of Charles I., and was on the Restoration appointed Secretary of the Lord Treasurer, Earl of Southampton. He died in 1682. He wrote "Memoirs of Charles the First."

² The leaguer, the siege of Maestricht.

Holland to find out the Dutch fleete, so that it's thought the Prince may be gone to amase the fleete and fight them if they please, and in the meane[time] the army have orders to goe land. Without this be the designe it's not imagined what the army should do there; the two regiments of Albemarle and Vaughan are ordered to march toward Suffolke coast, it's thought to be taken in there.

R Aug. 6.

No. 61.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 21, July 1673.

Saturday morneing arrived Mr. Francis and brought me two letters from your Ex^{ty} of the 18 and 21 inst., with severall enclosed which have been all carefully delivered. I told your Ex^{ty} in my last that the Fleet sailed from the buoy of the Nore on Thursday; that evening they came to an ankor in the Gunfleet, and the next day about noone off of Harwich, where the Prince called a Councell of Warr and resolved there to saile out by the west end of the Galloper, and farther to steere their course according to the motions of the enemy. Our letters come this morneing from Deale speake of great shooting that was heard Satterday in the evening, and that they supposed the two Fleets might have mett, though wee hardly believe it here, notwithstanding it is possible enough.

The Argiers Frigatt, as she was goeing out, ran a ground near the buoy of the Nore, and it is thought she will hardly be gott off againe, insomuch that they have taken out her guns and all her stores. The Prince wrott my Lord Arlington yesterday of an accident that had happend, vid^t. the Greyhound Frigatt Friday in the afternoone came through the Fleet with a flag on his maine top, which amazed them all; the Prince imediately sent one of his Lieutenants on bord her to know the meaneing of it, and to command it to be taken downe; but he being come away, and the flag still aloft, the Prince fired a gun, upon which it was taken in, and the

Capt., Clements by name, come on bord the Prince, who talkeing somewhat impudently, the Prince had him putt in chaines; the Capt. afterwards to excuse himselfe said that the King had ordered him to obey such directions as he should receive from Mons. Scomberg, and that he had commanded him to putt up one of the Earle of Mulgrave's colors for distinction sake.

Sir Thomas Modyford I hear has a promise that he shall suddainely be discharged from his confinement in the Tower.

The Lord Treasurer has been for this day or two indisposed; yesterday he sent his excuse that he could not be present at the meeting.

Wee hear not as yet any farther of the Duke of Monmouth's goeing Commissioner into Scotland, though in the mean time he seems to have a very great interest as well at Court as in the City, and some people stick not to say that great things are designed for him. I will not trouble your Ex^{cy} with any account of the impertinent discourses of the Towne, and therefore begging your Ex^{cies} pardon, I humbly subscribe myselfe, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull and most obedient servant,

R. YARD.

I have this afternoon a letter from Yarmouth which says that the ships which had the soldiers on bord were come into that Road, and were there to expect farther order from the Prince.

R ^{27 July.}
6 Aug.

No. 62.—FROM R. FRANCIS.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 3^d July, 1673.

I can only hereby give your Ex^{cy} an account of my arriveall at this place, which was on Satterday morning about 3, haveing had very contrary winds at sea and much adoe to make any port of England, tho' at length we mett with a breeze of some time that

put us into a posture of fetching Dover, which with much difficulty we did.

I wayted upon my Lord Arlington, who was pleas'd, when he awak'd and understood my being there, to command me to his bedside, where I delivered my expresse, and both his Lordship and his Lady, then lyeing by his side, seemed very glad to understand your good health, and dismisseeing me then to my rest commanded me to wayt upon his Lordship, which accordingly I did, and do every morning in expectation of his Lordshipp's commands, which I believe will not be yet awhile; an extract of my expresse Mr. Richards drew out this day for his Lordshipp's memoriall, as I conceive thereby to frame his letter to your Ex^{ty}, which you will receive by this post, but nothing yet offers worthy an expresse.

In obedience to your Ex^{cies} commands I have made your compliments to all those persons of honor your Ex^{ty} ordered me, and have theyr respective returnes of thanks. In my returne from Goring house I wayted upon my Lady Katherine O'Bryen, and also this day, and I expect to receive the honor of her Ladyshipp's commands in a letter to enclose to your Ex^{ty}, but it is not yet come, and it is now past eight at night. My Lady Browne and Mrs. Cave are out of Towne. My Lord Hawley sayes he has a booke rather then a letter for your Ex^{ty}, which his Lordshipp supplyes from time to time as matters occurs, for his Lordshipp sayes nobody gives your Ex^{ty} a true account of things.

Your Ex^{cies} house is in very good order as to all things that I can perceiue, and I have been from the top to the bottome, and for what is said in excuse of other miscarriages I shall give your Ex^{ty} an account when I have once more the honor to kisse your Ex^{cies} hands.

My Lord Chancellor yesterday fell sicke at St. Clement's church. My Lord Treasurer is sicke of the collick, tho' this bee the first day of execucion of his office. Mr. Secretary Coventry is likewise indisposed, and the opinion continues still very strong that your

Ex^{ty} shall succeed my Lord Arlington, but of those things your Ex^{ty} will have a better account from better hands, and therefore for my owne part shall adde nothing but my prayers for your Ex^{cies} good health, honor, and prosperity. Mr. Ph. Lloyd has the revercion of the first Clerk of the Councell's place that shall be voyd. Mr. Bertie is Secretary to the Treasurer, and Sir Robert Howard has Sir Robert Long's place; but I will not trouble your Ex^{ty} further with the repetition of Gazette news, but beg leave (till I can further informe myselfe of something more worthy your Ex^{cies} knowledge) to subscribe my selfe, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most obedient humble servant,

R. FRANCIS.

R ^{27 July.}
_{6 Aug.}

NO. 63.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, July 25, '73.

Don Bernardo de Salinas went not hence till last night, and not a little troubled to find himselfe hastned away by his Majesty, who did soe least the King of France should entertaine any jealousy upon his longer stay here.

This night Mad^{lle} Queroualle is made Dutchesse of Portsmouth and Countesse of Fareham.

That your Ex^{ty} may see the instance of the Spanish Ambassador for Fonseca's liberty, I here presume to inclose a copy of the translation of his memoriall upon it, which I had sent in the originall language, but that I have not time my selfe, nor a hand at present that can assist me therein.

His Lordshipp gives you all the news of our fleet. Our land forces are all landed at Portsmouth and there encamped; Comte Schomberg takes a great deale of paines in exercising of them, having but few collonells with him to assist him.

Yesterday hapned a fire below the Bridge, very neare the place

where the last ended, and hath consumed neare 100 of those kind of houses.

I am with all respect, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most humble and most faithfull servant,

JO. RICHARDS.

R 31
10 Aug.

NO. 64.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 25 July, 1673.

I have your Ex^{cies} of the 25 inst. with an enclosed for my Lady Katherine, which I putt into her Ladyshipp's hands. Yesterday morning Mr. Pett, the shipwright at Woolwich, brought to the office a chest of wyne and a jar of oyle, which came for your Ex^{ty} from Leghorne in the Dover frigatt; the captaine, it seems, had not the care he ought to have had in the seeing these things delivered, but left them in the ship's cabin, where Mr. Pett accidentally found them when the ship came into the dock, and, upon enquiry to whom they were directed, took charg of them and brought them himselfe and putt them into my hands. I trouble your Ex^{ty} with this account that you may please to know the respect he expresses for your Ex^{ty}, and the great readinesse to serve your Ex^{ty}. The wine and the oyle is at your Ex^{cys} house in Mr. Everard's care. Yesterday morneing likewise Mr. Floyd was with me, and desired by this post that I would acquaint your Ex^{ty} that he had received yours of the 26th with an enclosed for my Lord Clifford, which he was then goeing to putt himselfe into his Lordshipp's hands at Tunbridge, with intentions to be back this night; which, however, he feared he should not doe time enough to be able to write your Ex^{ty} by this ordinary. That, as to your Ex^{cies} Bill of Extraordinaries, it ought to be sworne by your Ex^{ty}; however that he doubted not but to gett the money paid so soone as he could have the Bill out of my Lord Arlington's hands. That Alderman Blackwell has received the moneys he was out upon the plenipotentiaries goeing

for Holland the last year. My Lord Treasurer continues very much indisposed, insomuch that some people begin to think there may be danger.

As for news, I have very little to tell your Ex^{cy}, our fleet being at sea and upon the enemies coast; the great expectation is to hear of some action from thence. This morneing came an expresse from the Prince which, they say, told (for wee are not permitted to have a sight of any papers that come extraordinarily,) that his Majestie's fleet upon their first appeareing upon the coast of Zealand, the Dutch came out of their station at Schonevelt with intention, as wee thought, to fight us, but it seems that was not their businesse, for as soone as they were come at most within canon shott, they tacked againe.

The land forces are, as your Ex^{cy} will see by the enclosed, all landed at Yarmouth, where they expect orders from the Prince; the reason I hear is given for their comeing thither is that the Prince did believe the Dutch would, upon our first appearance, come out and fight us, and therefore thought it safest that they should continue at Yarmouth till they saw what the enemy would doe; and, for their landing at Yarmouth, it was very convenient for the ease of the men, and to prevent the distemper which their being crowded together on bord might have occasioned, and then they may be shipped againe in two houres time. Our politicians in the Towne in the mean time make a mock of this descent, as they call it, and say they expect no other will be made. But I will not trouble your Ex^{cy} with what they say on this and severall other matters.

I am, with all dutifull respect, my Lord,

Your Ex^{cies} most faithfull obedient servant,

R. YARD.

Our fleet, finding the enemy would not engage them, are gone towards the Maes.

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No. 65.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 25, 1673.

Yesterday morning about two broke out a sad fire at Shadwell in the King's Brewers and burnt downe many houses, which in all with those blown up and spoyled are reckoned almost 100, some of them very rich ware houses and masters of ships.

On Tuesday night last the King, Duke, and all the young Lords and Ladyes, went up to Barn Elmes, and there intended to have spent the evening in a ball and supper amongst those shades, the trees to have been enlightened with torches, but the report of it brought such a traine of spectators that they were faine to go dance in a barne and sup upon the water; the treat was at the cost of Madamoselle Carowell.

My Lord Treasurer continues so ill and out of order as not to doe business yet, and it's feared he is too far gone in a consumption to undergoe the trouble of that office. He lyes in the lodgings in the garden, and there are most of his family, his meat being drest in the King's kitchen, but Wallingford house he removes to as soon as my Lord Clifford has left it. My Lord Clifford is yet at Tunbridge, and has lately past a lycence for imparkeing his land at Chudley, and has to him and his heires given him 140*l.* per ann. payable to the King by the Chapter of Yorke. The excise commission is past now, and the wyne licences to the value of 5,400*l.* granted to my Lord Grandison dureing my Lady Cleaveland's life, and the reversion of the office of Clerke of the Pipe in the Exchequer, after Sir Robert Coke, granted to Mr. Hugh Clifford, brother to my Lord. My Lord Lauderall is still at the Bath, and as angry as ever att some body. These two dayes wee have expected something from the fleete, the King himselfe, as he thinkes, hearing the guns, on Wednesday morning in the island in the Parke, but as yet not a word where they are. The 40 companies of our army, in the colliers with Mons. Schomberg their generall, are incamped at

Yarmouth, where they landed on Sunday last. The Earle of Carlisle is gone to the Fleete in the Monmouth Yatcht (which the King has given him on this account) to see some action there, and most of the Collonells stay with the Prince.

The Earle of Peterborough is they say now returning home (the proposition upon which he went to Cologne being layd aside¹), and a daughter of the Duke of Modena in Italy is to be the person, though the women will not believe but that my Lady Bellasis shall be the person, his Royal Highness, where-soever he meets her, entertaining her with a particular esteeme.² A report runs about that he will receive the Sacrament on Sunday next, but Mr. Depuy³ knowes nothing of it.

Sir Robert Carre returnes to Towne next week, but my Lord Clifford not till the middle of August. Mr. Blomer, Chaplain to the Earl of Sunderland, is made a Prebend of Canterbury.⁴ About 7 this evening came a letter to my Lord from the Earl of Ossory, which sayes that on Tuesday the Dutch perceiving His Highness approach came briskly to them, but seeing their number and prepairedness and Sir Edward Spragg bearing towards them, they, having the wind, hoisted their sayles aloft and made what hast they could into their sands again, further then ever they were, so that his Highness, seeing it impossible to come to a faire battle, was gone

¹ To look at the Princess of Newburg. See letter No. 60, July 21, p. 122.

² Bishop Burnet gives a lively account of the Duke of York's passion for Lady Bellasis, widow of Sir Henry Bellasis, K.B. who was the eldest son of John Lord Bellasis, and who had died during his father's life-time. Lord Bellasis was a Roman Catholic. His daughter-in-law, Lady Bellasis, who captivated the Duke of York, was a Protestant. He tried in vain to convert her, but, his passion prevailing over his religion, he gave her a promise to marry her. When her father-in-law heard of this affair, he feared that she would convert the Duke, and spoil all hope of introducing the Roman Catholic religion; so he went to the King and told him of the Duke of York's matrimonial intention. The King prevented the marriage.—See Burnet's Own Time, i. 353.

³ The Duke of York's valet.

⁴ Mr. Blomer was married to a sister of John Locke; this Church preferment was probably owing to the influence of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

from them towards the Texell, either to putt our men ashore that are at Yarmouth, or else to goe seeking of their East Indya fleete now expected dayly. An expresse is going this night to Yarmouth againe to the Prince in returne. The talke is here that the Dutch are reinforced with 12 ships from Denmarke, and that they lacke only an oportunity to fight us, without which wee must not expect it. One Stafford, Master of the Faulcon of London, is lately come from Holland, and, being a pretended Sobrician, discourses very imprudently on the Change of the Dutches averseness to us, that every thing is as cheap in Holland as ever it was, and the people no more sensible of warr then wee are, and that it's impossible to gain any good or tollerable termes; all which the cittizens beleive, and such strang reports run dayly upon it, some times that your Ex^{ty} is come home incognito, and other times that the Treaty is brooke off, but the pleasantest and most ridiculous story is the citty discourse of a barrell of figgs that should be sent out of France, which being opened, the Lords that tooke any of them were all poysoned, &ca., with such strange foolish reports. My Lord Widdrington or Sir Thomas Morgan shall goe they say Governor to Barbadoes. Yester night went away Don Barnard de Salinas, full of dissatisfaction at his departure; he sayd when he went away wee should repent our not hearkening to them, and that he went directly for the Dutch fleete and army to give them an account of our perseverance in our first intentions. I doe not heare of any present he had made him, he takeing no charecter, and only bringing a letter from the Comte Monterey and another from the Prince of Orange.

This being your Ex^{tyes} birth day my Lady O'Bryan was pleased to send for Mr. Everard, Mr. Francis, Mr. Yard, and my selfe, to dine at her Ladyship's, where shee nobly treated a good many, but of that I suppose your Ex^{ty} will have a better account, and so I beg only your Ex^{tyes} leave to make my due acknowledgments for your noble favours to mee, which as I must ever own them while I have breath, so I cannot but thinke it my duty to be as carefull in your

Ex^{cyes} absence as when here, which I hope I shall not faile to be, and therefore humbly intreate your Ex^{cy}e to continue me in your esteeme, being with a perfect resignation, may it please your Ex^{cy},

Your Ex^{cyes} most obedient and faithfull servant,

HENRY BALLE.

R 31
10 Aug.

NO. 66.—FROM SIR THOMAS PLAYER.

Sir,

Guildhall, July 29th, 1673.

I received yours the 21st instant, and, in it, obligations too great for the returns I am capable of makeing to your Excellency. The height you are now placed in doth not make me seeme lesse to you, neither is your kindnesse lessened to mee, but in me you have rays'd a higher value of my selfe being thus own'd by you, and I hope I may be pardoned for it.

The Citie of London after all its calamities may yet revive itselfe from the esteeme and frendship of your Excellency, and had it more such supports I should not question its recovery to its ancient splendor quickly.

The truth is, this yeare the Government begins to thrive marvelous well, for it eats and drinks and sleeps as heartily as I have knowne it, nor doth it vex and disquiet itselfe with that foolish, idle, impertinent thing called busnesse; by that time your Excellency returns, I hope it will be awake and fitt to receive your helpe. The people cry out for peace, and that with some earnestnesse, but I doe not perceive they would have a dishonourable or an uncertaine one.

There is not a place in the world soe fruitfull in liing storyes as London, and, though the falsenesse of these storyes is usually within two or three dayes layd open to the world, yet the people are ready to receive new ones, and to beleeeve them till they alsoe are detected. From hence it is that our enemyes gather stubbornnesse, for these

reports are usually framed to the disadvantage of our owne affaires, and to the advantage of the Dutch.

Wee are mighty busy here swearing against the Pope, and yet here wee are discontented, for my Lord Mayor and the Town Clarke have, by a precept they have sent out, made the law to extend to all livery men and governors of hospitalls, to sextons and parish clerkes, and this hath coated our liverys and courts of assistance, and the poore clarkes are not able to sing one line of Sternholt in tune for feare of being turn'd out of their places.¹

By the favour and good nature of somebody the Nonconformists in all these parts enjoy their liberty, and I doe not heare but they doe it modestly, but in some countries² the justices are very severe, and with some contempt to his Majestie.

About the 20th of this month wee were very much alarm'd here by Secretary Coventry, my Lord Treasurer, and my Lord Chancellor's being taken very ill much about the same time. The last was surpris'd at church with vomiting and a kind of convulsion, but is recover'd; the Treasurer is very weake, not without danger; the Secretary's proves the gout, but the common people would needs have it poyson in all three.

Wee have had lately two very great fires, one at Wappin, the other at Shadwell, in both above 300 houses were burn't downe and blown up. Wee have benne unkindly dealt with by the other element of water, for wee have had the greatest floods in some parts of England that were ever heard of among us. A friend of mine travelling from Durham towards London, himselfe and horse were carryed in boats some miles, brushing against the topps of trees and thatch of houses. The people were forc't to fly to the hills to save themselves. The sea is likewise broke in about Linn, and hath drownd many thousand acres. The countyes about London have

¹ The Test Act framed in the late Session of Parliament required the oaths of allegiance and abjuration of the Pope to be taken before August 1, to enable holders of offices to retain them.

² Countries, the common word at the time for counties.

scaped these floods, soe that wee are like to have great plenty both of hay and corne.

Wee are in very great feare the Dutch have made great spoyle upon our shippes and trade in the East Indies, but as yet wee are not certaine.

Your brother Sir John Smith was buried the 17th of this month very solemnly; the Artillery Company made up a part of the sad trayne.

And, to adde to our sorrows, I heare your Excellency hath sent for winter shooes, by which wee apprehend your stay abroad to be longer then is wish't by your servants here.

And now, certainly, I doe as much need your Excellencies pardon as ever I did since I was first admitted among those that honour you, but I hope my obedience to your commands will in some measure justify mee.

Wee have now news of six Virginia men taken by a fleet of Dutch Capers about the coast of Ireland.

All our Courts are goeing to breake up till after Bartholomew tide, only my small Court must be kept open.

If your Excellency is not offended by this impertinent paper, be pleas'd to give mee the satisfaction of letting mee know it when you are at any liberty from your great affaires.

Your Excellency's most humble and faithfull servant,

THO: PLAYER.

NO. 67.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, July 31, 1673.

At the Signett since my last has been only these few things: A pension of 3,000*l.* per ann. to the now Earle of Bath and his heires male for ever, out of the pre-emption, &c. of Tinn in Devon and Cornwall, and if a failure there yn, out of the Excise of London and the adjacent countyes.

The revenue of wine lycences wholly taken into his Majestyes hands, and chargable with, first, a pension of 5,500*l.* per ann. to the Lord Grandison for the Dutchess of Cleaveland's life, and after her decease to the Earle of Southampton and his heires males, the residue of the revenue to be divided into moities, one whereof to the Lord Euston and his heires, and the other to the Lord George and his heires, with clauses of failure in either of them the other to have the whole; and, so, if both, then to go to the Earl of Southampton, with power to settle it as jointures on wives, or provision for their younger children.

Captain Haddocke made a Commissioner of the Navy with a sallery of 500*l.* per ann. and to take care of all the maritime affaires in Woolwich and Deptford Dockes (which, I suppose, is the place Mr. Puckle mist of).

A pension of 3,000*l.* per ann. to the Earle of Anglesey out of the Office of the Navy for his life, with power to the Treasurer thereof to pay him presently 1,500*l.* in arreares since his first warrant for it.

Great St. John's Woods in Marybone Parish, and all of them except the Park, granted in reversion, after leases now in being, with the inheritance thereof, to Charles Henry Lord Wotton, in consideration of his surrender of a debt in orders in the Chequer of 1,300*l.* value.

A lease of a plott of ground neare the Mewes to the Duke of Monmouth to build stables on.

The new Dutchess of Portesmouth is not yet come thither. Yesterday, Fonseca, the Spanish Consul, was discharged from his imprisonment in the Gatehouse, upon the like done to Sir Martin Westcombe at Cadiz.

Yesterday, the Duke of Monmouth drew out to muster his troope of Guards, where appeared severall new officers, as Mr. Villiers and Sir Thomas Armstrong, lieuts. and majors, and Sir Charles Windham, cornett, and my Lord Cornwallis, guidon;¹ and Sir

¹ *Guidon*, standard-bearer.

Thos. Armstrong's troop in the Earle of Oxford's regiment is given to Sir Charles Windham.

On Tuesday last his Grace the Duke of Monmouth invited his Majesty to a very noble entertainment at my Lord Roberts at Chelsey, where all the gallants were pleased to be present. The entertainment was intended to have been in the Bowling Green, which was enlightened by lamps in an extraordinary manner, but it being too cold for the Ladyes, his Majesty supt within the house, so that all that preparation was to little purpose. On Tuesday next the French Ambassador makes the like feast, but intends to exceed it as much as his Master's armes does ours (as his servants pretend) in this warr.

An express is this day (they say) come from our fleete, and sayes that his Highness, understanding that 14 of the Dutch fleete did lye off of Yarmouth towards Scarborough (to intercept our land men if they intended to imbarque again), was gone also that way, intending for Bergen, to looke after the Dutch East India fleete, who are said to be comeing home, and that the Dutch fleete, 63 sayle of them, were gone after them to divert them if possible from prejudizeing them, soe that it's looked upon by the Citty as a very good signe, and good newes is expected from them; in regard if they fight thereabouts, wee shall have as much benefitt of the sea as themselves, and have all the Scotch ports to flye into if maimed. Collo-nell Scott, that was lately at Bruges and who played so many strang tricks there, is, I heare, lately driven from thence, as also out of all the Spanish dominions, the cittizens of Zealand having procured of Comte Monterey that they might send officers to seize him for high treason towards their countrey; of whom they mist but one hour, and [he] is gone from thence to the French campe; he lately writt to my Lord that he was banished Flanders, desireing therefore some money, or else he should be forced to goe serve his Majestyes enemyes. What answer he had I know not, but I beleive none to any purpose.

The Towne is now full of the newes of the Duke of Yorke's

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marriage with the young Dutchess of Modena in Italy, sister to the present Duke of that name, and great-neice to the late Cardinall Mazarine; the articles are said to be agreed on, and Mr. James Porter ordered to prepaire to carry them, and the Earle of Peterborough to stay in Paris till ordered what to do in it. Her portion is said to be paid by the King of France, and, which is not very pleasing to the people, they say shee must be here before October, least the Parliament should hinder it, shee being a Romain Catholique. I am in all respect and submission, may it please your Excellency,

Your Ex^{cyes} most faithfull and most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R Aug. 17.

NO. 68.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

My deare Brother,

July, 1673.

We had of late an allarum that Phillip Floyd was to be sworne Clerke of the Councill Extraordinary to attend there present and be in reversion. I was sorry a thing of this prejudice to us should fall out in his case and be promoted by the Duke, and at the recommendation of the late and present Treasurer, but 'twas soe true that his Majesty gave a faire promise in it, and Mr. Floyd attended my Lord Arlington and Mr. Sec. Coventry, and I presume thought all secure, for the Coffee houses rung of it.

But my brethren have used some silent endeavours that have had effect in appearance, for the thing seemes to coole, and his Majesty has promised us quarter, and my Lord Arlington seemed to me to disdaigne the thing, so that I beleive it will vanish; and if they please to favour the man who is deserving, lett him have Sir R. Howard's place that is worth our four¹ foure times told, but I heare Sir Robert layes about to keepe both. You are not long to be concerned with us (as the world sayes), but till that good houre

¹ There were four Clerks of the Council.

pray be kind to us, and helpe to make good the ground, for we expect it of you.

I am ever yours,

R. SOUTHWELL.

Pray tell the Baron I had his of the 15. instant.

NO. 69.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 1 August, 1673.

On Tuesday last about three in the afternoon Mr. Barré arrived here with the dispatches from your Excellencies. I went with him to Goring House,¹ where he putt his letters into his Lordshipp's hands, who was very well satisfied with the diligence he had made in his journey. Mr. Newcomb will be ready to answer the bill of 200*l.* which your Excellency has been pleased to give him notice you intended to draw upon him; I have received of him 35*l.* odd, mony for the wine that was sent downe to your Excellencie when here in the river, and the charges of sending it, and besides I have presumed to take of him 25*l.* more, which is according to what your Excellency is pleased to allow me, accounting from Xmas last; Mr. Newcomb promises me to have his accompt ready to transmitt to your Excellency by the next conveyance. I hope it will answer your Excellencies expectation, for the Gazette has kept up very well. Mr. Newcomb I am sure can wittnesse for me that I have used my endeavour. I have spoke with Mr. Floyd concerneing his procureing the payment of your Excellencies arrears at the Councell and Paper office;² the former will be ere long received, for the clerks of the Councell have gott an order for it, and for the latter Mr. Floyd will endeavor what he can to gett it paid.

Wee have not yet any letters from the Prince, since that he wrott the 22. instant. In the mean, wee all conclude that the Fleet

¹ The residence of Lord Arlington.

² Arrears of payment as Clerk of the Council and Keeper of the Paper Office.

is gone northwards to look after the Dutch East India ships; but I cannot find that this pleases the Towne, for they will not allow his Highnesse better luck this year then they had the last, and haveing thus lost the summer, they expect they should come home without doeing any thing; the Wise men upon the exchange, had they been to order matters, would have gone directly and landed somewhere in Holland, and would in a short time been masters of three or foure Port Townes, and then have defyed the French, whom, as long as they doe not love, they will still mistrust, and that they doe to that degree, that in the Citty they are absolutely of opinion that the French will either make a peace without us, or else oblige us to accept of such conditions as they think reasonable, and this, I believe, is a great reason that many ignorant people so earnestly desire the peace, not so much out of love to the Dutch, as a fear that wee shall be left in the lurch, though on the other side there be others that are so malicious as to wish France would serve us in this manner, that their words might be made good. Our land forces continue at Yarmouth; the great colliers that carried them are come to Harwich, it not being thought safe for them to ly in Yarmouth Road, and they too big to come into the Haven. Sir Martin Wescombe, at Cadiz, being discharged from his confinement, Don Fonseca, the Spanish Consul here, hath been so too, and yesterday he came abroad. On Tuesday night last the Duke of Monmouth entertained his Majestie and the Court at my Lord Roberts' house at Chelsey, where the garden was all enlightned with lampes and great tapers, and the entertainment very noble and splendid.

People haveing talked themselves aweary concerneing the change that was to be made amongst the Ministers of State, begin to be at present pretty quiett, and to permitt every body to enjoy the places they are in.

My Lord Treasurer mends every day, and there be many who long to see him in his office, for as yet he has not done any businesse. The inland letters tell us not anything worth takeing notice of, unlesse it be that our coasts are much infested by the

Dutch capers, though all they meet with is now and then a collier or some other inconsiderable vessell. The Duke of Lauderdaill is come to Towne againe; the contract of marriage betweene his Royall Highnesse and the sister of the Duke of Modena being accomplished. The credentialls are preparing for the E. of Peterborough to goe Ambassador Extraordinary to that Court. This day wee have news that the Dutch Fleet hath left the coast of Zealand and is gone northwards. I am, with all duty and submission, my Lord,

Your Excellencyes most faithfull and obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R 17

NO. 70.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, August 1, 1673.

The enclosed was writt in hast last night to have come by Mr. Barré expresse, who expected orders to returne, but it proved a false allaram, though he hourly expects an oportunity to returne to your Excellency. At his returne, he sayes your Excellency was very gladd of his comeing, and thought him the fittest person for a continuall courier, so that he has told me your Excellency would have him write with us no longer. Sir Robert Carre returnes on Saturday next, whom I intend to acquaint with this, and with your Excellencyes approbation (which I most humbly begg) take his directions for somebody to supply his roome, till your Excellency shall otherwise order it. Mr. Barré is lately maryed to a French woman that makes lace, and intends to be a marchant again, if your Excellency please to permitt him. My Lady O'Bryan returnes to-morrow from Billing. Mr. Barré being this evening ordered to returne, I presume to send your Excellency the inclosed, which I durst not doe, they being only the impertinent flashes of our witts, but your Excellency ordered me to send all pamphletts, which I have hitherto done. Our land forces are still at Yarmouth, but the ships that were to transport them are come to Harwich at the safest

docke. Great reports are now of peace, and none will believe any other, though few in the Citty will give his Highnesse any more lucke then the Duke had last year against their East Indya Fleete. The people talke very strangly of the Duke of Buckingham, that he should be utterly out of favour; but there's little appearance of it, he being as frequently with the King as any one. Mr. Swaddell has been these two dayes employed by my Lord in the same manner as Mr. Richards was when Sir Wm. Godolphin was in the office, and attends very diligently.

My Lord Duke of Lauderdale returned to Towne on Wednesday night last, and my Lord Clifford not till this day fortnight. My Lord Chancellor this day was somewhat ill and took phisicke, so that he was absent from councell all this day.

I most humbly begg your Excellency to pardon my shortnesse, because Mr. Barré sayes he must goe in all hast, and accept of the humble devotion and prayers of one, that in all submission begs your Excellencies protection and favoure, being in all duty and a perfect resignation, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most faithfull,

humble, and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R 17.

NO. 71.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 4 August, 1673.

Did not your Excellencies commands oblige me to write by every ordinary, I should think it a very great presumption to give your Excellency the trouble of a letter at a time when so little of moment passes here with us; and therefore I have onely to tell your Excellency that on Saturday Mr. Barré was dispatched for Paris, with the instructions and credentialls for the Earle of Peterborow to goe extraordinary Ambassador to the Duke of Modena to bring his sister over hither, after haveing, with the usuall sollemnity, espoused her in the Duke's name, which it is said is to be done with the same

honors and respects as to a daughter of France. I dare not tell your Excellency the discourse of the Towne hereupon, and it seems they are still dissatisfied with all that is done; but a Prince in Italy, to the thinking of the ordinary people, is too near the Holy See of Rome, and a marriage proposed and concluded by the French cannot be good, but the conclusion of all is what will the P¹ say to these things. Your Excellency is pleased to command us to write you all the discourse of the Towne, which is indeed so undecent and extravagant that I know your Excellency will pardon me if I stop here.

The marchants have dayly advice of their vessells being taken, as well on the westerne as northerne coasts, and though they are small boats many times, yet make a great deale of noise; this they attribute to the want of frigatts employed in cruiseing, and to the knavery and neglect of those who are abroad.

My Lord Treasurer begins to be at present in a condition to sett up, and it is hoped he may ere long be seen abroad, which many people long for.

Monsieur Scomberg complains, it seemes, of the great difficulty he has to keep the soldiers at Yarmouth in good order, for want of martiall law, the officers thinking it not safe to putt the articles lately published in execution, on this side of the water; and then besides many of the officers take to great liberty themselves, and by their example spoyle their soldiers. However, he hopes in a little time to bring them into good discipline.

To-morrow night the French Ambassador treats the King and the Court at Chelsey at my Lord Roberts' house, where the entertainment is expected to be very extraordinary.

The last letters from the Fleet were dated this day seavennight, and left them within 4 leagues of the Texell. Almighty God prosper them in their designes !

I know not anything else to communicate to your Excellency,

¹ Prince Rupert, a zealous Protestant and opponent of a French policy, besides being much exasperated with the French for their conduct in the war.

and therefore, humbly begging your Excellencies pardon, I subscribe
my selfe, my Lord,

Your Excellencies

most faithfull, obedient, and obliged servant,

R. YARD.

R $\frac{10}{20}$.

NO. 72.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, Aug. 4, 1673.

The 4 last dayes I have been so troubled with the head and teeth-
ach that I could scarce indure it, which I feare my last two letters
might sufficiently show by severall evident markes, which if they
did, I now most humbly begg your Excellencies pardon, and hope
to obtain it, since 'twas what I then could not remedy, and I very
hardly indured to hold up my head. On Satturday night Mr.
Barré went from home to Paris to my Lord Peterborough; he had
two false allarams, the last of them he knew nothing of disappoint-
ment 'till 'twas too late to open the pacquetts, so that I must begg
your Excellency to excuse the three idle pamphletts which I then
inclosed, which I intended only for an express, but the mistake arose
from one of the messingers misunderstanding Mr. Bridgman. Mr.
Barré had with him my Lord Peterborough's power to treat about
his Royall Highnesses marriage. Her portion I heare is not yet
fix't, but her jointure talked on to be £15,000 per annum, and that
shee shall be maryed as a daughter of France. I suppose its meant
only the portion, because they say his Most Christian Majesty gives it
her. How well this proposition pleases the Towne your Excellency
can best judge by what you know already of their humours and their
aversness to both France and Popery, the latter of which is the
generall eccho of every place. I forbear to enlarge upon it till the next
express, which I hope your Excellency approves of, because 'tis some-
times not fitt to be thought, much less hazarded in a letter. If your
Excellency should thinke fitt to lett me write in characters, I would
most faithfully doe my duty. This day was a warrant issued to the

Admiralty, for the pressing 1,000 seamen more for this expedition, and as yet since Fryday by Mr. Doucett wee have had nothing from sea, he returned this morning to take boate at Yarmouth, but knew not positively where to find them. From the campe at Yarmouth comes dayly discontentments of the young soldiers at the discipline of Mr. Le Comte de Schomberge, and, which makes a worse noise in the Town, is the great feuds that is feared are privately between Mr. Schomberg and the Prince, about the flagg in the Greyhound, which they at land complain is the cause they are not in action. The Earle of Mulgrave seemes also discontented at it, because no expresses that pass through there ever take notice of him, the Governor.¹ The generall talke is, wee might have made a descent in Holland when his Highness scared them soe, and that it was soe long before they could gett force enough together that wee might easily 'ere that have taken 2 or 3 good places; and till yesterday peace was the generall talke of the Towne, but now that the treaty will breake upp suddainly *re infecta*, and your Excellencye suddainly returne home; that the Dutch will give us no townes, without which all people say the other conditions can be nothing, and that now wee must prepare for another summer's warr, and the portion wee shall receive from France for the marriage to be borrowed to helpe towards it, and many other such politique coffee reflections; and October being now in view, they begin to talke of the meeting of the Parliament, with dire things that must then be done against the Roman Catholiques, and all that have run contrary byas² to them in the management of affaires; indeed in Yorkshire

¹ It would appear from this that he was Governor of Yarmouth. But I have not found any other information to that effect. He was, in 1679, made Governor of Hull.

² *Byas*. "Bias (Biais, F.) a weight fixed on one side of the bowl, turning the course of the bowl that way towards which the bias looks: inclination, bent." (Bailey's English Dictionary.) The derived meaning of bias, its present familiar use, was becoming common at this time, yet there was always a trace of its first meaning in connection with the game of bowls. Andrew Marvell in "Rehearsal Transposed" Part 2, p. 368, ed. 1674: "Some rub has been interposed, unhappily, that has thrown

and Durham they have begun to indict the Papists as well as in Lincolnshire, and doubtless somewhere will be found to doe the like in all the other countyes, which they thinke severe, to be only punisht for what others are publicquely tollerated to do, and that it's not so well timed as it might. Never (all people say) did the common streame run swifter against the Recusants than now, and divers therefore selling their estates before they forfeite a 3^d, that they may spend the whole quietter in foreigne parts. This month at the Signett has happened nothing yet, but a warrant for the paying to Mr. Seymer whatever was assigned (before his having that office) for it, nor in my Lord's office any thing of moment. This day was the first my Lord Treasurer adventured to walke cross his chamber; he has yet done no business, which the poore petitioners earnestly wayte for in droves. It's observed since Mr. Bartie had the office of Secretary, some jealousy has happened between Mr. Lloyd and him, which has much cast downe the former, and whereas before he was counted as Secretary, he is not suffered to be soe now.

To-morrow is to be the great French Treatie at Chelsey for his Majesty, which they say will be very magnificent. Here are come out 2 or 3 very scurrallous copyes of verses, the one called the Dream,¹ the other the entertainment Nelly gave the new Dutchess, and another called, Observations on the Coffee Houses in Convent Garden, all of which I have endeavored to gett, and some of them hope to have to send by Mr. Carlton at his returne; they all are so

all of the bias and so lost the cast." Shadwell in his Epilogue to his play of "The Humourists:"

"A humour is the bias of the mind,
By which with violence 'tis one way inclined,
It makes our notions lean on one side still,
And in all changes that way bend the will."

See note on Dryden's *McFlecknoe*, Globe edition, p. 150.

A Poem called "The Dream of the Cabal," which is printed in the "Poems on State Affairs," but there having the date 1672, clearly a mistake. The poem inclosed to Williamson is docketed "September 1673, Libell." The Prologue

bad that I cannot gett any one to shew them me, but a gentleman has promised to helpe mee in them. My Lady Bryan is not yet come from Billing. Sir Robert Carr comes on Fryday. I hope your Excellency will please to excuse this also, here being so little to write, that I dare not longer detain your Excellency but by begging the continuance of your favours to one that is in all humility and perfect obedience, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most obleiged and most faithfull servant,

HENRY BALL.

A merchant just now tells me that this day he had advice from Camerant in France, that one of our East Indya ships was putt in there, so that they hoped the rest might be safe, though a report has been long spread about that 5 of them were miscarried.

R $\frac{19}{20}$.

NO. 73.—FROM JOHN RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, August 8th, '73, 11 at night.

The greatest news wee have at present is from Ireland that on the 28th past arrived at Kingsale the St. Daud from the Barbados, with 4 East India men and many merchants from Barbados men-

printed in the "Poems on State Affairs" is not in the copy sent to Williamson: but the copy has a short epilogue, which is not printed in the State Poems. This is the Epilogue:—

Whilst beaten Dutch at land retire,
The English flee by sea;
The daring French at all Empire
Yet likewise forced to flee.
The glories to the Belgics then
At sea do still remain:
The land possessed is by French men,
The English nothing gain.
As who should say, the sea and land
The Dutch and French protest,
To share between them by strong hand,
Let England take the rest.

tioned in the inclosed list, and to it may bee added two that are come from Jamaica; the St. David brings the corpse of the late Lord Willoughby. 'Tis supposed all these ships may by this time bee neare the river's mouth. The last news from the Fleet spoke of their being off the Texell, and that the Dutch Fleet was moved towards them as farre as Scheveling (as is supposed), to draw them off from looking after the Dutch East India ships, which, 'tis probable, may produce a new sea fight. God send us good successe!

Our land forces continue still encamped at Yarmouth. Just at the closing hereof I come to receive your Excellency's of the 11th; his Lordshipp hath not yet opened his letters, soe that your Excellency can expect noe further account of them this night then their arrivall. I am ever, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JO: RICHARDS.

R 17.

NO. 74.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, Aug. 8, 1673.

On Monday last I presumed to give your Excellency my accustomed trouble, since which wee have nothing yett from his Majestyes Fleete, more then yesterday from Dover that the day before came thither in the Calais pacquett boate a merchant from Amsterdam, who reports that there on Sunday last the guns were heard so plain and violent all that day that they imagined it was an engagment, and this is all the ground I can learn for the yesterdayes hott report of our having fought. Sir Samuell Morland, to take away all complaints against him at Parliament for printing the articles of warr, has gott his Majestyes lycence for his erection of his presses for his Majestyes own private use. The Citty have long projected a nursery of their own in their hospitalls for pilotts and seamen (seeing the great want there is of such men), and finding his Majesty to owe

them an ancient debt of 7,000*l.*, have procured his Majesty to repay itt, by makeing a new Royall foundation which shall be erected in Christ's Hospitall where out of the Blew Coates there 40 of the ablest witt and learning to be chosen and to be putt to the tuition of masters well skilled in the mathematickes and arithmetick, with whom they are to remaine till fitt for aprentices, and then to be committed to the care of masters of ships to learn the art of navigation, and to be made fitt to serve the King and country in that science, and this number to be alwayes kept up out of the Blew Coates, for which his Majesty has been pleased to issue his warrant for the erecting and founding for ever a mathematicall schoole in Christ's Hospitall for the uses aforesaid, with power to the Mayor and Cittizens and Governors of Hospitalls to elect the said boyes and masters accordingly, for support of which his Majesty grants 1000*l.* per annum for 7 yeares, to be imployed to purchase land for the same.

Sir Robert Paston was on Wednesday last made Viscount of Yarmouth and Baron of Paston, which honor they say is chiefly intended for his sonne, who has marryed Mad. Charlotte daughter to my Lady Shannon by his Majesty, etc.¹

My Lord Duke of Monmouth is made High Steward of Hull, a complement that Town has made him being their Governor.

There is a new commission for Tangier now passing, the names of whom are, Prince Rupert, Lords Chancellor, Treasurer, Privy Seale, Duke of Ormond, Earl of Peterborough, Earle of Craven, Earle of Arlington, Earle of Bridgwater, Earle of Middleton, Lord Barkley, Sir George Carterett, Sir Thomas Chichley, Secretary Coventry, Sir Robert Carr, Sir Hugh Cholemondly, Collonell Norwood, Sir Thomas Allen, Sir Jeremy Smith, Thomas Povey, and Samuell Pepys, Esq^{res}, 5 of whom to be a quorum to take care of that garrison with the usuall powers.

The Town say wee shall now have many new Lords. This day my

¹ This illegitimate daughter of Charles had been, before her marriage with Mr. Paston, married to Mr. James Howard, grandson to the Earl of Suffolk.

Lord sent me a paper of 3 honors to know if any had them before; if not they were to be used for a Barony, and they were, Petersfield, Auresford, or Aulton,¹ in Hampshire: the first is the best, and is to be the honor, but I durst not ask Mr. Richards for whom the quere was made, nor can I heare who it should be.² The young Lord Cornwallis³ is taken into Court, and is to marry Sir Stephen Foxe's daughter, with whom he must have 10,000*l.* at the first payment, and their marriage to be suddainly.

To Kinsale on Thursday 7-night last came 4 of our East Indya ships (so long feared lost), one Guinny ship, and 35 from the Barbadoes, a particular relation of which Mr. Yard tells me he gives your Excellency.

On Monday next returnes from the waters my Lord Clifford, and to-morrow Sir Robert Carr from the countrey.

My Lord Sunderland is now returning home, thinking himselfe so well recovered as not to need the waters of Burbon, and that it's too late to goe to Cologn, so that a yacht is ordered to attend him; and this next weeke my Lord Peterborough begins his journey from Paris to Italy, for the Treaty about the marriage.

This last weeke dyed also my Lady Vyner, wife of Sir George, so that Sir George's body (buried some weekes) is taken up, and a very great funerall prepairing for them both.

As yet people are in great suspence what to thinke about the peace, the generality of them wishing it and say wee cannot gett more money of the Parliamēt, unless unfitt concessions be granted them, and that they will come so unquiettly together, all gaping for rewards for their contradiction of State policy, that a little thing will not satisfy them; and this, say they, will doubtless induce the

¹ Alresford and Alton.

² The inquiries were made probably for Madame de Querouaille, soon to be Duchess of Portsmouth. See letter No. 81, p. 165.

³ At this time only eighteen years old. He became an important political person in the reign of William, and was appointed in March, 1692, first Commissioner of the Admiralty and a Privy Councillor. He married his second wife in May, 1688, the widow of the Duke of Monmouth. He died in 1698 in his forty-third year.

King to make a peace if nothing else, but the marchants (though peace is their profit) had rather have itt done now, once for all, then every 2 or 3 yeare to take new measures.

In all the countreys the Presbyterian party are very violent against the Roman Catholique, and say they must only be disturbed, and that themselves must be encouraged all that may, which makes great grumbling amongst the old honest Protestants, and the neighbour-hoods every where soe unquiett, that none that has any concerne can almost indure it, and the Papists say they must petition his Majesty for ease, or else they will be all undone.

This new rare experiment for preventing bleeding (for which Monsieur St. Dennis that brought it hither had 1,000 guinnyes of his Majesty as a reward,) was experienced this morning upon a dogg, whose eare was cutt off for it, but it would not doe at all, which made the King lessen his esteeme for it very much.

Captain Henry Williams of the Guard here going to Huntingdon the other day to see his family, went to bedd very well and in the morning was found dead, so that his poore lady is gone down in great hast to bury him, and looke after his affaires: the Company is not yet given away.

Whither it's my Lord Treasurer's illness or noe that causes so few meetings of the Lords, ore that the Cabinett is really broken into peices, the Town doe not well agree in, but all observe that of late wee have very few meetings, seldome now above once in a weeke, upon which the coffee drinkers make very idle reflections, as that the King does not care to foment any faction by bending towards them publicly at Councell, and therefore commonly absents himselfe, etc., but now all the talke is of your Excellencyes coming home and the Treaty breaking up.

The army continues still at Yarmouth in reasonable good health, considering they say the little care those young soldiers take to keepe themselves soe; and nothing can wee heare yet from his Majesty's Fleete. My Lord Willoughbyes body is brought over in this Barbadoes Fleete, and his successor is named now, and they say shall

certainly be S^r Jonathan Atkins, who will goe thither at the returne of this man of warr, now very suddainly. The Queen, the people say, is not well pleased att the idle reports of the Parliament intending to doe strang things at their next session, so that shee appeares at none of these publique meetings. Just now Sir Robert Carre sent word of his being come to Towne, so that I have no more to putt to this too long schroole, but my continuall prayers for your Excellencyes health, prosperity, and safety, and the continuance of your favours to me, whilst I shall make my chiefest aime as now I doe of being in all perfect obedience and respect, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencyes most obedient and gratefull humble servant,

HENRY BALL.

R $\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 75.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 9 August, 1673.

The marchants are not a little pleased at the news they received yesterday of the arrivall of four East India ships, with 36 saile from the Barbados, at Kinsale; and particularly the East India Company who were not long before in great paine for these ships; they come all four from Suratte in Persia, and know not anything of the four ships wee expect home about this time from the Indyees, though the Company are in no great fear for them; all the danger they apprehended was at St. Helena, and there these ships were, but found no men of warr there either Dutch or English; upon their coming in the fort fired severall guns at them, and presently discovered themselves to be the enemy; our ships stood off to sea againe, and for want of fresh water went to the Barbados, and came thence with the St. David and the rest of that Fleet. The actions of our East India Company are since raised very considerably, and the marchants are all very chearfull, and that which helps to make them so, is the

assurance they seem to have from all hands of a suddaine peace; an eminent person reporting this day upon the Exchange that he had heard the King say wee shall have a peace ere long, and now people begin to be more inquisitive concerneing the conditions wee propose to our selves; nothing will please them but a peace, and yet if t be not concluded on very honorable termes they will bee displeased to.

Your Excellency will without doubt have much a fresher account of the motions of ours and the enemies Fleet then wee can give you from hence, for what wee have at present comes from the other side of the water; our last letters from Holland left the States in a great perplexity what to doe, for on one side they think themselves obliged in honor to endeavor to remove the enemy from their coast and secure their East India ships, and on the other they were loth to hazard a battte, or to move to much northwards, for fear wee should take the oppertunity and land our men in Zealand.

The land forces lye still at Yarmouth, and with some difficulty begin to be brought into order and discipline; Monsieur Scomberg carries himselfe with a great deal of fairnesse, and yet with all necessary severity is continually amongst the soldiers, exercising them, heareing their complaints, and redressing them, so that he seems to have already gott a generall esteem and reputation as well amongst the officers as soldiers. He complaines of his being kept there when the eye of all the nation is upon him, and expect some great piece of service from him, as if it had been on purpose to lessen his credit in the world; what reason he has I know not, but this I am sure of, that he does not look upon the P . . .¹ for his friend, and takes extreemely to heart the businesse about the flag, of which I formerly gave your Excellency an account. Yesterday there were some who pretended to have news from the northerne coasts. of great shooting that had been heard there, and from thence argued an engagement; the truth is the generality were in great expectation, upon the goeing out of the Fleet, to hear of some notable action,

¹ The Prince Rupert.

but, seeing the time spend without any effect, they begin to conclude that there is a fate hangs over our heads; that all our endeavours must want successe, which God forbid.

I hear there is lately erected a schoole or academy for the instruction of 40 boys, to be taken out of Christ's Hospitall, in the art of navigation, after which they are to be sent to sea with master of ships, &c., in order to the makeing them compleat pilotts, the want of which the marchants find hath of late occasioned the losse of many of their ships, towards the maintenance of which, the King is pleased to allow a thousand pound a year for 7 years.

Sir Robert Paston's son is made Viscount of Yarmouth,¹ and wee expect to hear very suddainely of one or two creations more.

Wee are yet wanting the Flanders letters of this day seavennight. I am with all humble duty, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull obedient servant,

R. YARD.

R 17.

NO. 76.—FROM T. ROSSE.

My Lord,

Whitehall, August 11, 1673.

I had the favour of yours of the 14 July (your style) but from what hand I know not, neither have I had the good fortune (nor to say kindness, though I have often desired it) to have the least intimation from those you intrusted here, to give mine to any express come to you: how this will fare I know not, being to repaire some old misfortunes by going to Bath to-morrow, and not to returne till 3 weekes be over. This will be left to the care of Mr. Ball (as you directed), but I can only say to what your Ex^{cy} desires to know of the person you mentioned in that of my Lord

¹ Compare this with the statement in Mr. Ball's letter immediately preceding, No. 74, which is the correct statement, that the father was made Peer chiefly on account of his son.

Arlington, it is he who left all, *et Virgam deposuit*. The reasons you know from better hands, and the issue is yet doubtfull, though nothing here yet appears *sur le Tapis*, but will doe when October comes and you returne.

I have, partly out of curiosity and partly friendship to both, as true to the publike, bin really inquisitive of the reason of this distance formerly hinted, but it seemes on all hands to bee *religionis Esper*,¹ which yet few beleive, that being too common a *Fucus*² to set a good face upon any thing, but of this you know more.

I have that unalterable respect for your Ex^{cy} that though I seeme impertinent I cannot but lett you know that some of the fine Gentlemen that went with you (wee thought to honour you) have complained of an alteration of your deportment towards them, as more high then they expected: it runs through the gallery, &c: (as you say), not a little to your disadvantage, with the constructions and censures usuall in such cases, which I thinke it becomes my friendship to hint to you, both that you may observe and guess the censures and take notice of those that leave you, as they intend soone as they find conveniency if you are like to stay there this winter.

As to my selfe I live the same hermit's life you left mee in, and exposed to the foxes of the wilderness who are still devouring my little branches, but I endeavour to defend myself with a weapon which they alwayes wanted, which is honesty, an exorcisme against all their devills that befriend them must submit to, and I hope I shall stand firme as you left mee.

I shall bee infinitely gladd to kiss your Ex^{cy}'s hands where I may not bee soe ænigmaticall, and should most willingly embrace any oportunitie might bring mee to you, but that's designed for men better qualify'd and more in vogue, so that I must bee satisfy'd only

¹ Query, *experientia*. This mysterious reference may be to a dissension between Arlington and Clifford.

² *Fucus*, a dye, a trick or deception.

with the hopes of having the honour to kiss your hands here, where I doubt not but you will finde reason still to put mee in the number of those who are, as really I am,

Your Excellency's most humble and faithfull servant,

T. R[OSSE].

NO. 77.—FROM J. RICHARDS.

My Lord,

Whitehall, Aug. 11, 73.

There never was lesse news stirring when soe much was expected; onely honours abound; besides that of Sir Robert Paston's being made Viscount Yarmouth, my Lord Chancellor's son of Ireland is made Viscount Blessinton. Since my Lady Dutchesse of Portemouth's creation few nights have escaped without balles; it falls this night to my Lord of Arlington's turne at Goring house, where all things will bee very splendid.

Your Excellencye sees how hard I am put to it to expresse my desire of giving any expression of my being, with all devotion, my Lord,

Your Excellencyes most humble servant,

J. RICHARDS.

R 47.

NO. 78.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, August 11, 1673.

I formerly told your Excellency amongst the extracts at the Signett, that Mr. Goldesborough had procured the reversion of the office of Clerke of the Commons house for his son after him; it past as furr as the Privy Seale, and there stayed for a docquett so long that Mr. Aram (Clerke to Sir Robert Howard) has gott a grant of it over his head, and past it the great Seale, before ever it appeared by any entry at the Signett or Privy Seale, which Mr. Goldesborough

thinkes to be so unfaire a proceeding, that he threatens to bring itt into the House next Parliament and vacat the grant as surreptitious, but every one believes that his interest is not so strong as the others, nor plea soe good, his sonne being no wayes capable at the Signett.

Since my last hath also past a grant to Tho: Purcell and Pellham Humphreys the office of one of the musitians in ordinary for composing and practize of the violins, during their lives, with 200*l.* per an. out of the Exchequer, in the roome of George Hudson; and another warrant to pay unto them 42*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* by the yeare wages.

A like to pay unto Edward Purcell, Esq., 100 markes per an. for preventing uncertain charges (by bills), which he shall be putt to for his Majestyes service about makeing ready standing houses and progress houses as gentleman Usher dayley wayter assistant.

Another to the Master of the G[reat] Wardrobe for the allowance of severall parcells unto Francis Purcell, Esq^{re} one of the Groomes of the Privy Chamber, in the place and upon the surrender of John Molins, and for the like parcells yearly dureing his Majestyes pleasure.

A grant of denization unto Madame Louise de Querovelle as free denizen of England, which must itt seemes preceede her pattent for her honors and estate.

Mr. Philip Lloyd made Receiver of all the Queen Mother's Revenue dureing her terme, with such sallery the Lord Treasurer shall allow of.

My Lord Treasurer Osborne is now made Viscount Latimer, and Baron of Kiveton in Yorkshire, which causes some grumbling amongst the family of Northumberland, although it's a new title, theirs being only Baron Latimer. His Lordship is not yet so well as to doe business, and some say he was putt in to do none; he is removed however for ayre's sake to the Navy office in London, and they say intends to live in Leicester House, the Duke of Albemarle haveing hyred Wallingford House for his habitation.

On Saturday last Mr. Barré returned from Paris, and sayes he left my Lord Peterborough and Sir Peter Wyche preparing for

their speedy journey to Modena. Sir Peter thought not to goe, but my Lady told me he writt her word he had my Lord Arlington's order to goe alsoe thither, which he could not refuse.

This day came an expresse from our Fleete, but I haveing not seen the letter or received a perfect account of the condition it left them, I dare not tell your Excellency any more then that Mr. Richards told me they were then 6 leagues off of the Texell, and had done nothing further; but just as this expresse came away it mett another going to the Prince with his Majesty's orders to doe something else, which he sayes he believes they have attempted ere this, but what it was he told me not; the Dutch Fleete lay then alsoe off the Schevelling. But from Yarmouth Monsieur Scömberge sayes, that finding by all likelyhood now that the forces there are not intended to make any descent this summer, he has forebore to call any Councell of Warr about reading the Military Articles, and so has not put them in execution, finding all the Collonells of an opinion, that he cannott safely putt any man to death, or loss of member, because of the Parliament, who may call them to question for itt, so that he was forced to use only menaceings to governe them bye, which he thinkes will not last long, if once they find his difficiency of power. He proposes a fortification at Yarmouth, and sayes he can make itt impregnable, which he thinkes would be of no ill use, considering the nature of the people there. The Town is at present pretty quiett, saying they expect not much fromour Fleete, thatt it's not our custome to doe anything, &c., with divers such malicious jerkes. It's now the whole talke the great force Spain, the Emperour, Sweden, Denmarke, Luxenbourgh, Hamborough, and all the Hanse Townes are prepairing against us, being entred into a strict league to defend the Dutch, and bring down the French glory; and letters were this day shewed upon the Change from France, that the Spaynard would declare certainly the first of September next; so that now all thoughts of peace are layd aside amongst the citizens, and they looke but blewly att these vaine reports. People confidently report your Excellency returned in private upon

some great matter, and some fancy they have seen you in a coach going to Goringe House. The King and whole Court continue very merry and jocund; this night my Lord Arlington treates them most nobly at supper, whither they are now all gone to Goring House. The talke of my Lord's being a Duke begins to revive againe, upon some discourse to that purpose used by Sir John Bennett,¹ who to a miracle growes young againe, dayly riding abroad with his young lady, and spending his time as much to his mirth as when but 15. Next weeke he treats the Court; they had been there before, but he uses all his rhethoricke to keepe them off till he has finished his house. This evening came to town my Lord Clifford from the Wells. Sir Robert Carre is dayly pleased to inquire after your Excellency's concernes here, and continues his great kindnesse to all of us upon any occasion. I cannot heare when Mr. Carlton may returne. Mr. Richards said this morning he had askt my Lord when he would send him, who had told him he did not know. One Mr. Dixon is made his Majestye's Limner in the roome of Mr. Cooper. I heare Monsieur Colbert at Paris highly resents the dispute about the flagge between the Prince and Monsieur Scomberge, and thinks the latter was in the right; at least deserved noe blame. I know nothing to trouble your Excellency with further, more then my most humble duty, which with my whole life and fortunes are tendered at your Excellency's feet, begging your Excellency's countenance and protection as one of those that shall ever acknowledge your favours by being to the last minute of his life in all humility and respect, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

B 17
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¹ The elder brother of Lord Arlington, who was, in November 1682, created Lord Ossuleton.

No. 79.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 11 August, 1673.

I have your Excellencies of the 6 and 11 instant both together, with an enclosed for my Lady O'Brien.

This morning I was againe with Mr. Lloyd concerning your Excellencies extraordinary. He tells me, could he but have the Bills, he doubts not but in a short time to procure the moneys, and would be able presently to gett creditt to answer the sum, should your Excellencye have occasion to draw it upon him by bill; but as yet wee cannot learne in whose hands these bills of extraordinaryes remaine, nor have I had any direction from your Excellency to speak to any body about them.

This morning I was to waite upon Mr. Chancelor of the Dutchy,¹ who is lately returned out of the country; he is pleased to continue his kindnesse to us, and to enquire concerneing things in the office. I returned him my humble thanks, and told him I would rather bear with some things then complain.

Yesterday the King received letters from the Prince, which were dated seven leagues from the Texell, S.S.E. from them on Tuesday last. His Highnesse seemed to be resolved with the first oppertunity of wind to fall upon the Dutch, if they kept their stations till off of Sceveling, but desires positive instructions from the King concerning his proceeding. Monsieur Scombergh writes from Yarmouth, that by the endeavors he had used he had brought the soldiers in a great deale of order; in the mean time severall officers that are come up to towne speake very much of his great moderation and mildnesse which he uses amongst the soldiers, not forgetting to be severe when there is occasion, so that I find every one speaks of him with much respect and esteem. It is possible that they may be yet employed; and if it may be before the season advances to far, both

¹ Sir Robert Carr.

officers and soldiers will be pleased at it. My Lord Treasurer, though he is pretty well recovered, yet does not any businesses, to the great disappointment of many people. This evening my Lord Arlington entertaines the King and the whole Court at Goring House, as the Duke of Monmouth and the French Ambassador have already done.

Many people now begin to lay great wagers that wee shall have a peace very suddenly, which, though it be never so much desired, will however be unwellcome if it be not on good termes, and though the generallity of the people have good will enough for the Dutch, yet since wee have been at so great expence, they would have us have something to show for it, and would not have the French fare better then wee. The enclosed are from Sir Robert Carr and my Lady O'Brian for your Excellency. I have not any thing to add, but my prayers for all happinesse and prosperity to your Excellency, and humbly to subscribe my selfe, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull,

most obedient and most obliged servant,

R. YARD.

R 17.

No. 80.—FROM W. BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord,

Whitehall, August 15, 1673.

As soone as I had receaved the favour of your Excellency's of the 5th, I spoke to my Lord about the Bill of Extraordinaries, who ordered a Privy Seale to be drawne for it, but being this morning told by Mr. Floyd that my Lord Treasurer would allow the Bill if signed by my Lord, without any further direction or order, I got my Lord to signe it, and have sent it to Mr. Floyd accordingly; if there should happen any difficulty in the matter, wee must get a Privy Seale for the allowance of it, in which, as in any thing else for your service here, I will bee punctuall to observe such directions

CAMD. SOC.

Y

as I shall receive from you. All our letters from the coast confirm an engagement to have been between ours and the Dutch Fleet, which is supposed to have begun Sunday,¹ in the afternoon, and to have continued till Tuesday night, though by reason of the great distance (northwards, as is thought here, of the Ulie), and the westerly winds since, no account is yet come concerning the success of it; God Almighty grant it may be such as may increase his Majesty's honour and conduce to the conclusion of an advantageous peace! This morning my Lord received advice of the taking of an East India ship called the Papenburgh, who fell in amongst our Fleet, and was sent home by the Prince, and said to be worth 100,000*l.*; they report the Island of St. Helena was retaken by some English ships, but this will want good confirmation.

Before I finished this, the newest came of the Munday's engagement, which you have in my Lord's letter, to which I can only add, that I hear Sir W^m. Reeves is also mortally wounded, having his nether jaw and tongue quite shot away, and Captain Howard lost his arm, of which it is thought he will die. It is whispered, *as if the French did not behave themselves well, as having the wind and yet not bearing upon the enemy, keeping at a distance, though the signal was given them to bear upon them.* But you know this may be but discourse, and proceed from the little inclination the English generally have for the French. I am told, also, Captain Guy in the Henrietta Yacht, attending my Lord Ossory, had his yacht sunk, but saved himself and all his men. I am, with all respect, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithful and most humble servant,
WM. BRIDGEMAN.

R $\frac{2}{3}$ †

[The words printed in italics in the above letter were written in cypher in the original.]

¹ August 11.

No. 81.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, August 15, 1673.

On Tuesday at noone, wee received the first newes of the guns from Yarmouth, and ever since the Towne has been very impatient to heare the success of this supposed engagment, but as yet there is nothing come from the Prince or from sea more than an express this morning from Sir Charles Littleton at Harwich, which says, that yesterday he came in there in the Constant Warwicke, bringing with him a Dutch East Indya ship called the Papenbourgh, valued at 100,000*l.* sterling, which they tooke stragling alone; having been informed that the English Fleete were not at sea by a Dane, shee came directly into our mouths; the seamen of her confess there were 5 more behind richly laden, and that wee had retaken St. Helena from the Dutch again. He sayes he was commanded on board this prize on Sunday night, leaving the Prince then drawn up in a line, with intentions to ingage the Dutch, being within a league of each other, and Mr. Taylor from Harwich sayes that he was informed by Sir Charles, that the Dutch perceiving the Prince to make ready, bore up their helmes and sayled away afore the wind along the shoare towards S.W., as they supposed for Schonvelt, his Majestyes fleete following them. But by the noyse of guns Sunday night, all day on Monday, and some on Tuesday morning, it's concluded the Dutch did not run, but that there was an engagment, though yet wee want an account, which his Majesty lookes upon as a good signe, not hearing of them or any maimed ships which would doubtless be putt in, though the wind has been somewhat contrary ever since. Various reports goe already amongst the giddy multitude of the fight, which are so silly that 'tis needless to trouble your Excellency with them, but the greatest, and I feare the most true, is the story yesterday spread about the Towne, that the Earle of Carlisle being not well at sea should have been aboard in his yacht, and hearing of the approach of the enemy and fearing to

loose the sight of the battle, caused himselfe to be putt on board Sir John Holmes his ship, the first he could reach in so rough weather, and in quitting his yacht, being not nimble enough, should crush his legg between that and the ship, so as to breake his toes, which is the modestest report, but others say his Lordship is dead with the bruise, but as yet his family are without the certainty of this ill newes, which I wish they ever may.

This East Indya prize has filled the Court with great joy, and now there goes a report up and down in it, that the other 5 East Indya men should have been putt into St. Helena, which they thought had been in their hands and are there taken by our people, but this is not credited but by very easy beleivers.

The Towne is now full of the marriage which they say is concluded on between Mr. Mountague and the Countess of Northumberland, which is to be, as reported, on Monday, and that his Majesty has given his consent, and to honor it will make him as high in dignity as her husband; 'tis very certain he is preparing for some extraordinary action, and people say shee, having mist her ayme of Dutchess of Yorke, will not longer continue a widdow.

Yesterday came newes to Towne, that my Lord Roberts lay a dying in the countrey, so that Mr. Roberts, his son, began to bespeake coach and horses to goe see him, but yet hears not further.

On Friday 7 night my Lord Peterborough left Paris for Modena, but Sir Peter Wyche was forced for want of money to stay some dayes behind my Lord, permitting his company with no good will, and on Wednesday evening Mr. Barré was sent to Turin to overtake my Lord before he gott to Modena, with letters from his Majesty to the Duke, Dutchess, and daughter, so that they all say that business is already done, though not att all well relisht by the generality of the people, because shee is a stiffe Roman Catholique.

Sir Robert Carr this morning commanded me to acquaint your Excellency from him, that there was nothing happended since his last worth giving you the trouble of his writing, and therefore hoped you would please to excuse him for his forbearance therein.

At the Signett there has been nothing but my Lady Dutchess of Portesmouth's pattent passing, creating her Dutchess of Portesmouth, Countess of Farham, (I suppose they mean Farnham) and Baroness Petersfield, with 40*l.* per annum for a Dutchess, and 20*l.* for Countess.

A comission for the errection of St. Paul's, directed to severall honourable persons, according to the modell made by Dr. Christopher Wrenne, and to forward it his Majesty is pleased to continue to the Church his 1,000*l.* per annum out of the Privy purse dureing its errection.

Mr. Richard Writtle is made Apothecary Generall of the army.

I suppose I need not tell your Excellency what every one sayes is no secrett or doubt now, that my Lord Arlington certainly resignes his office to your Excellency and will be Lord Chamberlain; what truth soever there may be in itt, it pleases all people who know or have heard of y^{our} Excellency, so that wee pray here for your Excellencies speedy and safe returne.

My Lord Treasurer has yet done no publique business, and they say threatens if he may not be quiett here he will go into Yorkshire; whatever the reason is, his Lordship satisfyes not at all, and there never was greater grumbling among the poore servants.

Whether the Parliament will meet at the time appointed or no is not yet determined in the Towne; they say if wee should have so much good fortune as to take the Dutch East Indya ships, wee should have for this winter money enough, and then there would be no need of their helpe, because 'twas alwayes known when they were called to supply the wants of the King they never did itt without lessening the prerogative; and I heard a member say this day that he was assured they should not meete, however, till spring that the treaty were off or on, and that his Royall Highnesses marriage were solemnized. This is the beleife of some; but there is yet a month and more good, before there need be a Proclamation to forbid them.

As yett wee have nothing from the fleete; I have stayed as long as the post will permitt, in hopes to heare some good newes to tell

your Excellency from them. But I suppose, when it comes, my Lord will dispatch away Mr. Carlton express with it, so that then I may have the honour of paying my duty to your Excellency againe.

Before I durst conclude, I went (as it's my custome) to know my Lady O'Bryen's commands, and the rather because her boy sayd her Ladyship had not been very well. I found her honour in the dyning roome and pritty well; shee commanded me to acquaint your Excellency that shee had been somewhat feavorish in the night, and was not very well this day, so that shee hoped your Excellency would excuse her not writing. All at your Excellencies house are well, and I have no more to lengthen this with, then by begging your Excellencies pardon for any slips or errours may through haste or inadvertency happen in my letters, which I am the more induced to hope for, since I have always been the object of your Excellencies goodness, which I shall ever owne by all due respect and duty, and as becomes, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R 31.

No. 82.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 15 August, 1673.

I have your Excellency's of the — instant, and according to your commands therein, I this day went to Mr. Floyd's againe, and acquainted him with what your Excellency had wrott concerneing your Bill of Extraordinaries; he told me, that he questioned not but he should be able in a very short time to procure the payment of those monies, and that without the trouble of a Privy Seale; accordingly I this morneing spoke to Mr. Bridgman, and prayed he would putt the Bill, after signed by my Lord Arlington, into my hands, which he has done this evening, and to-morrow I will give it to Mr. Floyd; he wishes the account had been in English mony;

however, according to the rate of the exchange, he will gett it allowed. As for your Excellencies arrears in the Paper office and Councell Table he will use his endeavor to gett them paid as soone as may be, but especially the latter, which the Clerks of the Councell have already an order for. And now after all Mr. Floyd desires me to acquaint your Excellency with an affair of his owne, and that is, that he haveing, by my Lord Clifford's means, obtained a grant of the King to be Clerk of the Councell in reversion, begs your Excellency to believe that he has been carefull however not to doe any thing which you might take amisse of him, and therefore has himselfe desired a clause may be putt into his grant to allow your Excellency to dispose of your place of Clerke of the Councell as your Excellency shall think fitt.

Ever since Tuesday last wee have been entertained with an account from Yarmouth, Southwold, and those other northerne ports, of the great noise of guns that hath been heard on Monday and part of Tuesday, which has putt us into a great expectation of heareing from the Prince, which as yet wee have not done since the fight; yet in the mean time wee receive the good news of a Dutch East India ship being taken; for this morneing about 11 a clock came an expresse from Harwich, and brought letters from Sir Charles Littleton, who was passed by Harwich in the Constant Warwick (haveing with him the East India ship called the Papenburgh valued at 100 thousand pound st:) for the river of Thames. Sir Charles, haveing charge of the prize, sent the letters up by the expresse which he brought from the Prince; they were dated on Sondag last in the evening, and give the King an account that this East India ship came stragling alone and came directly into the Fleet; haveing been informed two or three days before by a Dane that the English Fleet was not at sea, it seems she fell into the French squadron. The Dutch on bord this ship report that there are 5 more behind, who wee hope will run the same fortune, and that the English had retaken St. Helena. The Prince adds that then (which was Sondag evening) the Dutch Fleet appeared upon his

weather gage; and next morneing it seems they engaged. As yet wee have not the least account of what hath happened, though it is probable your Excellency may have heard from Holland what they say of it: in the mean time wee are in earnest expectation of news, and that wee have not as yet had any, wee suppose proceeds from our Fleets keeping as much as they could to the northwards to meet with the rest of the Dutch East India ships. God Almighty prosper them in all their undertakings!

I have not anything more of moment to communicate to your Excellency, and therefore, begging your Excellencies pardon, I remain with all duty and submission, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull and obedient servant,

R. YARD.

Just now my Lord Vaughan arrives here, and as I am told reports that the fight was very sharp; that the Dutch in two bodies attacked the red and blew squadron, the white squadron hardly firing a gun; that Sir Edward Sprag's ship was wholly disabled, and he, goeing to change his ship, drowned by a shott that sunk his boat; severall of our ships are disabled, none lost but the Henrietta yacht; that the Dutch have certainly lost 6 or 7 men of warr, and are retreated to their owne coasts; Captaine le Neve is killed, Sir W^m Reeves and Captaine Howard drowned. This is all the account I can as yet give your Excellency.

R ^{24 Aug.}
_{3 Sept.}

NO. 83.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

My Lord,

Spring Garden, 17 Aug. 1673.

I am sure there is nothing materiall relating to the fight but your Excellency hears it from the most originall narrative. I come now from the withdrawing roome, where the dinn is soe great against the French Squadron for not bearing in when they had the full advantage of the wind, and might have destroyed all, that the Prince will never forgive them, whoever will besides; Monsieur Martell

and one other obeyed the Prince's signall and fell in bravely, but the rest stood off and sent a messenger to aske questions instead of obeying the signall. This is like to breed ill blood. His Majesty will putt the East Indya prize that is brought in into the management of the East Indya Company; she may be worth about 40 thousand pounds. And we have hopes by what these Dutch prisoners confesse that Captain Munday may have seized, some say 4, some 5 of their companions at St Helena. I hope the prize officers will now be payd their arreares. On the 5th instant the fleete of merchants to the number of 48 sayle were still at Kinsale. There are 3,000*l.* worth of our farthings sending over to supply Ireland. His Majesty gave order this morning that my Lord Arran be made an English Baron, Lord Butler,¹ Baron of old Weston in Huntingdonshire, a manour of his owne.

The lady Dutchesse of Portsmouth was 2 dayes since sworne of the Queen's Bed Chamber, but, as I heare, not by Her Majestyes warrant, and some talke of a scruple in passing her patent before she be naturallized, saying that denization is not enough.

My Lord Treasurer begins now to take the aire in his coach.

I send your Excellency (if there be leisure for such things) a poem by Dr. Woodroffe of his last yeares expedition at sea.

There is much talke as if there were some new but equall interruption in the marryage intended by his Royal Highness with the Princesse of Modena. But the whole Towne concludes that Ralph Montague is marryed to my Lady Northumberland, or that 'tis as good as done.

I have nothing more but the respects wherewith I constantly am,
my Lord,

Your Excellencies most affect and most obedient servant,

ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

R 27.

¹ Fifth, but second surviving, son of the first Duke of Ormond: he was created Baron Butler of Weston. He had been made an Irish Peer with the title of Earl of Arran in 1663.

No. 84.*—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, Aug. 18, 1673.

On Fryday night I presumed to give your Excellency as good a relation of the fight as then I could come by, but this post suppose I need not strive to add much of it, because I heare your Excellency will receive it exacter from better hands, and indeed, should I indeavour it, could do it but tamely, because wee are wholly kept from all passages in my Lord's office, and particularly from all letters, and some of those directed to your Excellency since Captaine Howard's arrivall, who the French say brought the first blemish on their nation; the whole Towne has been strangely enraged against the French, whom they absolutely run down, and will not be beate out of it, though the contrary appeares strong in every coffee house to defend them; what truth there was in Captain Howard's whispers I know not, but he was not the only man that spoake and writt it, for I have seen a letter from the Earle of Ossorye's Captain who says bluntly, had the White had honesty or courage, wee had done greater execution then I feare wee have; the Earl of Ossorye's letter to his wife sayes of it, that he hopes he has not done amisse, and wishes for our goods others had not; and all the private letters from seamen and Captains say worse and much more, so that it is impossible to beate any thing else into the multitudes, and some say that indeavouring to vindicate them will but irritate this hott humour, which by silence, and not takeing notice of it, might extinguish of it selfe. The French seeme every where concerned almost to anger, and, on the contrary, lay the excuse from policy, not to run themselves into danger when none could assist them; but his Majesty being satisfied to the contrary, and that there has been no want of courage in them, every one begins to be mute, and to submit to what his Majesty thinkes fitt. Our victuallers are, they say, gone to the Fleete, which wee hope may keepe the sea. The phanaticques have been very busy in their malicious reports to our prejudice, so that, I heare by

one of them, some of their heads have been sent for and checkt for their imprudent carriage. The Earle of Carlisle is landed safe at Yarmouth, and only hurt in the toe, as was formerly sayd, and is almost recovered. People say we shall when victualled take in our land men, and endeavour a descent for all this; but the Earle of Mulgrave is of another mind, who writes to a friend that they are intended for Dunkerke, where they are to land, to reinforce Condé, who for want of men could not doe anything about Breda to make a diversion, and all thoughts of peace being given over. Strange are the talkes of the people of our intended motions for the management of the warr, but they have so little reason and grounds for what they say, that I thincke I need not trouble your Excellency with them. All people conclude the Parliament shall meet at the time appointed, and that there is great hopes of their disposition to doe nothing, but for the benefitt of the nation. Mr. Montague is not yet married to the Countesse of Northumberland to day as was reported, though every one say 'tis concluded on. A report runs about this evening that there has been another engagement on Wednesday between the Dutch and us, and that this newes should be just now brought by an expresse to the King, but I cannot heare of the boy, or any certainty of it, though it's boldly reported;¹ how-

¹ This was a false report. The fight had lasted from the 11th of August to the 13th. Ralph thus describes the close of the fight, in which Spragge, fighting like a lion, was drowned, and Prince Rupert showed immense bravery and skill. The French played him false. "De Ruyter, with the residue of the Dutch Fleet, came up close with the Prince, and renewed the attack with all possible fury. Out of ninety, his Highness had but thirteen serviceable ships, exclusive of the French remaining: yet even with this wretched remnant of a Fleet, did he not only make head against the enemy, but recovered the wind, and, by the help of two gunships, put them into great disorder. Upon this he again made the signal for the French to engage; and had they even then, late as it was, obeyed it, without sharing the danger of the fight, they would have acquired the honour of the victory. But they continued still insensible, and the Prince found it expedient to give over the contest, and make the best of his way to port, whither he carried along with him the name and merit of a victory without any of the advantage."—(Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 240.)

ever, I presume to trouble your Excellency with what they say he brings, for it may happen so, for anything I know. They say that it began about one that afternoon; that wee have burnt and sunck of them 7 or 8, one taken, and that that night 5 of their Dutch East India Fleete fell into our hands; but 'tis I feare too good to be true. On Monday last some 200 aprentices of coach makers and harness makers being inveigled by journeymen that their masters could not make them free, but tooke so many apprentices that they could neither live by one another nor worke as journeymen, they went all away together to Prime Rose hill, pretending unlesse their masters would be obliged to procure an Incorporation, they would all quitt them and goe to the campe. They continued in this obstinacy till Fryday, when his Majesty, being dissuaded from using force, till they were warned by the Sheriffs to depart home, that afternoone the two Sheriffs went to them to tell them if they went not home they should be proceeded against as ryotters, upon which they separated, and some of them came back again, others gone for soldiers. They talke of a great prospect now on foot to build ships in Ireland, but so warmly opposed by our Commissioners of the Navy that they have not been able to effect a lycence, though Sir Nicholas Armorer is one of the undertakers. My Lord Roberts is not yet dead, but remains ill at the Bath still. There has been nothing at the Signett since my last, so that I hope your Excellency will excuse me if I dare not longer trouble your Excellency with these imperfect idle reports, but I am confident your Excellency believes I want not diligence or duty, but shall ever be with all respect, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

HENRY BALL.

R²⁴
3 Sept.

No. 85.--FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 18 August, 1673.

By last Frydays ordinary I presumed to give your Excellency an account of Mr. Floyd's haveing taken upon him to procure payment of your Excellency's Bill of Extraordinaryes, and that without the trouble of a Privy Seale; the next morning I putt the account which I had received the night before from Mr. Bridgman into his hands, and I doubt not but wee shall in few days be able to acquaint your Excellency that wee have gott an order for the money, and then, if your Excellency please to draw a bill upon him for that summ, he will use his credit to have it paid, your Excellency allowing ordinary interest, till he receive the same out of the Exchequer.

Mr. Newcombe tells me this day, that he has not as yet heard of the bill of 200*l*. which your Excellency advised him two or three posts since; you had drawne upon him payable to Mr. Shaw, of Antwerp. I remember I received by the same ordinary a letter from your Excellency for Mr. Shaw, which was sent by a messenger of our office, and putt into my Lady Kilmurry's hands, Sir John Shaw's lady, who promised to deliver it to her brother so soone as he came home; I give your Excellency this particular account, because I apprehend the bill was enclosed in that letter, and that your Excellency may please to know there is no neglect on our side.

Being this morneing to waite upon Sir Robert Carre, he commanded me to present your Excellency his most humble service, and to tell your Excellency that he would not by this ordinary give your Excellency the trouble of a letter, not haveing anything of moment to acquaint your Excellency at present, but that you may be assured that when anything happens, he will not faile to give your Excellency an account of it.

Wee are at present wholly taken up with discourses concerning the late engagement; I cannot give your Excellency any particular

account, not being able to gett sight of any of the letters that come on such publick occasions from the Fleet, so that att such times wee must be either silent, or hazard running into errors. I am unwilling to trouble your Excellency with any complaints of this nature, but, least I may be thought to neglect my duty, I humbly beg leave to give your Excellency one instance. The narrative being sent yesterday to the presse, by Mr. Newcombes means, I gott a sight of it (which I could not doe before) and made a short extract out of it for the newsbook, yet, being unwilling to doe any thing of that kind of my self, I acquainted Mr. Bridgeman with it, who very angerly asked me how I came by that extract, and that he wondered Mr. Newcomb durst lett any body have copy of the narrative, with whom he was likewise very sharp on the same account; and on all other occasions they are so farr from communicating anything to us, which is necessary should be made publick, that when we ask them they make difficulty to tell us.

Enclosed I send your Excellency two narratives, the one as intended to have been published, and the other as it is published; all the difference between them is concerneing the French, who, it is said, had not right done them in the first. Yet the generality of the people would think that too partiall too for them; for might I without offence give your Excellency an account of the discourse of the Towne, I should tell your Excellency that they now raile down right against the French, and say that they are so farr from assisting us, that they would willingly stand and look on, whilst our Fleet are destroyed, as they did at this time; but that it pleased God wee behaved our selves beyond their expectation; but that the P . . . ,¹ when they meet, will take care the nation be noe longer abused in this manner, &c.

It is said in the Court that Captaine Howard, who brought the Prince's letters, told the King, that, standing by the Prince, he said, Does your Highnesse see the French yonder? and that the Prince replied in a great passion, "Yes, God zounds, doe I." Another story

¹ Prince Rupert.

they tell of a French Marquis, whom the Count D'Estrees sent to give the King an account of the fight, that he, haveing been very large upon that subject, concluded, Nous les avons chassé comme des moutons, speaking of the enemy.

Yesterday came in a Ketch to Harwich, who left the Fleet on Thursday morneing 12 leagues E.N.E. of Yarmouth, where they were mending their sailes and rigging, with intention to stand over againe for the coast of Holland. Capitaine Howard is dead.

Wee hear that the marriage between his Royal Highnesse and the daughter of Modena is quite off againe, and now some speake of the Dutchesse of Guise. I am with all duty and submission, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull,
most obedient, and most gratefull servant,
R. YARD.

I must beg your Excellency's pardon that I doe not send the promised narrative, Mr. Bridgeman haveing given positive orders that none should be given out but to his owne hands; and from him wee cannot have the favor to obtaine one.

R²⁴
3 Sept

NO. 86.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, Aug. 22, 1673.

This afternoon I went to receive my Lady O'Bryan's commands before I writt to your Excellency, but shee was pleased to tell me shee had nothing but her service to present, and that shee would write her selfe by Mr. Carlton, who returns this night. Wee heare now the treaty of marriage with Modena will certainly breake off again, Spaine obstructing, itt having greater interest in itt allyes then England or France, especially upon the proposition, how improbable soever, of a match with the King of Spaine and that Princess, which every one thinkes too low a thing for that Monarke,

especially since wee esteemed it not fitt for his Royall Highness; but this report pleases much the people, who confidently called her Mazarines Neice, upon the mistake of her for her mother. Who they will now pitch upon, I cannot learne; but all say it must be a French choise. His Royall Highness continues his usuall divertisement of hunting, and, they say, meddles not in business. On Wednesday last my Lord Treasurer came to Councell, that being the first time of his coming out, but yet does no common business. It's confidently said here the Comte de Monterey has shewed Monsieur Feuerning his power to declare warr with France when he pleases, and that he will certainly doe it as soon as the Germains are advanced towards the French: and also they say his most Christian Majesty has resolved to treat no longer then the 10th of October, and, if in that time they cannot come to some finall conclusion, to remand his Ministers, but they say his Majesty has not consented to itt; so that your Excellencies returne they conclude cannot be till the latter end of October. The coffee houses talke this, and add, that Mr. Richards will goe along with my Lord Arlington in the Chamberlainship, and Mr. Bridgman be Clerke of the Councell, but how they know not, because Mr. Lloyd holds still his interest in that reversion. Dr. Stub reports and it's thought the author of it) that Sir Robert Holmes in his returne from the Bath to the Isle of Wight was mett by high way men and killed, but noe one credits the story. Yester morning Mr. Montague went down to Titchfield, my Lady Eliz: Nowell's; whither the Countess of Northumberland went before, and there to-morrow they are to be married: and they say he shall be made Earle of Chichester, a title entayled upon her father by her grandfather, the old Lord Dunsmore, who was so created. The Spanish Ambassador here,

* Lady Elizabeth Noel, daughter of the Earl of Southampton, married to Mr. Edward Noel, son of Viscount Campden, and afterwards created Earl of Glamorgan. She was sister of Rachel, Lady Russell; and she and Lady Russell were both half-sisters, by different mothers, of the Countess of Northumberland, now married to Ralph Montagu.

notwithstanding Captain Le Neves death, presses for satisfaction for his actions in the streight (where he gott 2,000*l.*), and complains our ships take Spanish goods laden in Dutch Bottomes, and Dutch goods in Spanish Bottomes, but what answer he has I know not; from Sir John Finch wee heare he has been at Geneva, where att the Senates request he tooke upon him his character, and found them very willing to give his Majesty satisfaction, and the rather because they desire his Majestyes interposition between the French King and them. The Duke of Savoy desires he may have leave to send an Ambassador hither, but also that he may be received and treated as Monsieur Colbert was. This morning his Majesty went to Erith, where the Papenbourg lyes, to see her, and has given her to the East Indya Company to sell for him; he returned at noon, and was welcomed with the newes from Ireland of there being brought in there by Captain Munday in the Assistance, the 14th instant, 3 Dutch East Indya ships, the particulars as well as I could gather them being this, that, upon the takeing of S^{ta} Helena from us, the Company fitted out Captain Munday (a waterman's son of Chelsey) but with his Majestyes commission, and, to goe with him, Captain Butler in the Mary and Martha, Captain Pyles in the William and Thomas, Captain Hobbs in the Lavant, and two fire ships, who went to retake itt, and, comeing to a Cape to windward of the Island, landed his men, and then in the night faceing the Fort with his ships tooke itt with small resistance, and then dismissing a ketch to give our ships notice of his being there, was resolved to stay 10 days to expect the Dutch, which he had not long done, but in the night comes those 3 with 3 more directly into the Port, and were by him instantly seized, the rest keeping the streame and so escaped, he not daring to follow them, being but newly possest of the Island, but the Papenbourg being one of them is fallen already into our hands, and the other two it's hoped may doe the like. The cargo of the Papenbourg is this: Japan sugar, 1,000 chests; China rootes, 40 chests; salt peter, 1,000 tun; Benjamin, 20 chests; Lignum aloes, 3 chests; silke stuffs, 2 chests;

Japan gownes, 2 chests; nutmegs, one caske; sugar, 600 chests; callicoes, 700 bayles; pepper, 400,000 weight; valued in all att 800,000*l.* by which they say wee may judge of the others, whose names are the Eliphantt, their Admirall, of above 700 tun; the Europe, Vice-Admirall, of above 600 tun; and the Armes of Freesland, between 4 or 500 tun; besides which, came in with Captain Munday, 5 East Indya ships of ours; Captain Fisher in the Barkley Castle; Captain Bendall in the Johannah; Captain Goodlad in the Loyall Subject; Captain Baker in the Barnardiston; and Captain Mariner in the Rebecca. So that now we have 12 East Indya ships in all there, and therefore now his Majesty is busy how to serve them there, some reporting the Dutch have sent a squadron of their fleete norward to looke after them. Some apprehending, if the Dutch should steale through the Channell in the night while wee lye off of Yarmouth, and with a squadron goe thither, that they have not force enough there to spare them, but Mr. Southwell writes, that if need be they can draw a chaine, as they did in the late warr, and by the helpe of the land militia be able to defend them; however, a messenger is goingt his night to Ireland with his Majestyes orders about them. Where our fleete are now I cannot learne certainly, but they say some leagues off of Yarmouth, and that victuallers shall be there sent them, for they must not come in as long as the Dutch keep the sea; who all say continue still off of the Texell, but others say they must be forced to come in. Sir John Harman has Sir Edward Spragg's flagg, and Sir John Holmes his, the Earle of Ossory modestly refusing itt, because he owns himselfe not seaman enough for such a charge; his lordship has alwayes the ill fortune to loose: he lost in the late engagement his ketch, with victualls and plate, and now his ketch with his gold and money of good value. Sir Edward Spragg's will is not yet opened; Sir Joseph Sheldon his executor, with whom it was left, being not come up yet, but they report he is dead, worth but 5,000*l.* besides his jewells, which he has thus disposed of: 2,000*l.* to his lady he kept, one Mrs. Edwards, 1,000*l.* a peice to her two children by

him, and the other 1,000*l.* to that he left her big withall, leaving his sister and her children nothing; his funerall will be handsome, but not known yet whether at the King's charge or his executors. There has this weeke nothing past at the Signett but a lycence to one Jonas and others to dye haire from black and redd to white, to be used for perucques.

I hope your Excellency will please to pardon the hast of this, and permitt me to continue in all humility, as I shall alwayes be, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencyes most obedient and faithfull servant,

HENRY BALL.

R 27.

NO. 87.—FROM JAMES VERNON.

May it please your Excellency,

hitehall, 22nd August.

I have not yet seen my brother to looke over my papers concerning your Excellency's account, he being gone to Titchfield by Mr. Montagu's order to be present att his wedding with the Countess of Northumberland, which is to be celebrated next Sunday. But if Mr. Ellise hath given your Excellency the account I sent by him, I am confident your Excellency will find it full and just, that the disbursements square with the receipts.

The news of our late engagement and happier successe att St. Helena would be quickly known to your Excellency if it should not be writt from England, therefore I hope your Excellency will not accuse the silence of one man, where allmost everyone talkes.

My Lord Sunderland setts out of Paris to-morrow, and is expected here towards the end of next weeke.

My Lord Montagu upon the mariage of his son hath made the settlement of his estate, and putt him into present possession of 2,000*l.* per an.¹ The Countesse of Northumberland, likewise, in

¹ Ralph Montagu was eldest son of Edward, second Lord Montagu of Boughton, who died in 1683. Ralph, third Lord Montagu of Boughton, was in 1689 made Earl of Montagu, and in 1705 Duke of Montagu.

case of no children, hath settled her estate upon Mr. Montagu during his life, in preference to all others. If there be any thing that may make my lady less satisfied with a second marriage, and which perhaps hath kept her from it all this while, it is a clause in her late husband's will, which takes away from her the care of bringing up her daughter when she shall dispose her self to marry, and putts the child into the hands of the Dowager; this is of extreme hard digestion, and no stone will be left unturned, if either King or Parliament can be prevailed with to keep up the mother's right.

The match with Modena is looked upon as broke, tho' it is said my Lord Peterborough shall go on to demand the reason of this alteration of opinion; others will have it that there are some reasons to thinke she may have no children, and therefore she is judged a match less fitt for the Duke, who they say, nevertheless, will marry a near relation of hers.

Senior Scaramouchio and his band have beggd his Majestye's leave to returne, their affaires requiring their presence att home. It seemes Baptiste hath a grant of the Palais Royal to play the Operas in it, and these gentlemen are to remooove to Sourdiacs Theatre in the Faunbourg St. Germain; and now I am among players I ought not to omitt to acquaint your Excellency that the Duke's house are preparing an Opera and great machines.¹ They

¹ A French troop first swept all things in its way,
But those hot Monsieurs were too quick to stay;
Yet, to our cost, in that short time we find
They left their itch of novelty behind,
The Italian Merry-Andrews took their place,
And quite debauched the stage with lewd grimace.
Instead of wit and humour, your delight
Was there to see two hobby-horses fight;
Stout Scaramoucha with rush lance rode in,
And ran a tilt at centaur Arlequin.

* * * * *
But when all failed, to strike the stage quite dumb,
Those wicked engines, called machines, are come.

Dryden's Epilogue to the University of Oxford, 1673.
(Globe edition of Dryden's Poems, p. 422.)

will have dansers out of France, and St. André comes over with them, who is to have a pension of the King, and a patent of master of the compositions for ballets; further, the King hath granted them what boys of his Chappell they shall have occasion for to sing. I am with all duty, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most obedient and most faithfull servant,

J. VERNON.

R Sept. $\frac{4}{14}$.

NO. 88.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 22 August, 1673.

I doubt not but your Excellency will by this night's ordinary receive from severall hands the good news our letters brought us this morneing from Ireland of Captaine Munday's arrivall at Kinsale, with 5 English East India ships and three Dutch, which he took at St. Helena. The particulars of that action is made publick, and here enclosed to your Excellency, to which I can onely adde, that the knowing marchants say that these three ships, if the thing be well managed, may be worth to the King 300,000*l.*; many people in the mean time speak of double the sum, but they know not that these ships are neither so big, nor so rich laden, as usually their ships have been: the biggest of the three is 800 tun, the second 550, and the third 350 tuns. The Papenburgh, which lyes now in the river (as the others), will be putt into the hands of the East India Company to dispose of to the King's best advantage; this latter is a fly boat and not so rich laden as the others, and will, when sold, it is thought, not yield above 50 or 60,000*l.* This Fleet, together with the East India and Barbados ships, which were there before, will, it is believed, continue there till they have convoy from hence. They have at present there the St. David and another small frigatt,

with Captaine Munday in the Assistance, and three other marchant men fitted out for men of war; but Captaine Munday haveing left 250 men at St. Helena, with severall great guns, his ships are very ill manned and gunned.

The last account wee had from his Majesty's Fleet came by letters dated the 14 instant, in which the Prince says that he intended to come within 18 or 19 leagues east and by south off Yarmouth, and to continue there 5 or 6 days, and therefore desired all letters might within that time be sent to him thither; whether he is since removed from that station, and whither wee doe not yet learne, though your Excellency will please to see what is reported by a ketch come into Harwich on Wednesday last. Thirty saile of Victuallers are gone for the Fleet, and wee hope are with them ere this; fresh supplies of ammunition have been likewise sent them; Mr. Pepys told me yesterday that orders had been sent to his Highnesse to come nearer home, I heare, being great appearance of a warr between France and Spaine; the marchants apprehend wee may be likewise engaged in it, and have already had the precaution to remove greatest part of their effects to Tangier, as I have been told by some eminent marchants.

Upon the takeing of these East India ships some begin already to discourse that the meeting of the Parliament will be putt off till January or February next,¹ but that will hardly please the people, who impatiently expect from this next Session some vigorous resolution, first for securing the peace of the kingdom at home, and next for restoring it with our neighbors abroad; but yet there is hardly any body so much desires it, as to be content to have it upon dishonourable termes. Your Excellency will not expect to hear from me what reason of State has putt by the intended marriage with the Princesse of Modena; I shall onely presume to say that the people are not at all dissatisfied at it, and wish there may be none of the French makeing.

Here has been a report as if Sir Robert Holmes was killed in

¹ A false rumour: Parliament met in October.

some rencounter as he was going from Tunbridge to the Isle of Wight, but it meets not with any credit.

The colliers which your Excellency will see in the enclosed were forced ashore near Yarmouth, have made a great deale of noise here, though wee know onely of two or three that are lost. I am, with all humble duty, my Lord,

Your Excellencies most faithfull, obedient, and gratefull servant,
R. YARD.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 89.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, August 25, 1673.

The inclosed Mr. Chauncellor of the Dutchy¹ commanded me to present your Excellency. Yesterday Sir Thomas Daniells came from the Fleete, leaveing them coming into the Gun Fleete, so that it's said there will be no more action this summer; after some stay to putt the ships in order and to putt out a squadron to goe to disturbe the Dutch fishing on the Dogger, where there now are 60 sayle and 3 convoyes; and I cannot heare what reason they had to come in, more than the want of provisions, and the great dissatisfaction in the fleete at the French behaviour. Prince Rupert has sent his family word they might expect him in 3 days; and all the discourse is, he comes up very angry and rageing, and that his coming is to do some extraordinary thing. The French Squadron (all say) complain of our ships not doing their duty; so that between these pro and con's, none can tell where the fault lays: the Dutch are still out, and it's feared may attempt something on our Fleete at Kinsale, but the King sent them orders on Fryday night to come directly to Plymouth. It was thought the Dutch scarce knew of their loss yett, but they say they have printed itt in their Thursdayes Harlem Gazette, and that they are not worth above 90,000*l*. in all. Sir Robert Holmes death happily proves a mistake; for this

¹ Sir Robert Carr.

day he writt to me without a name; but by compareing the hand I find it his, saying that he was returning to the Bath for 10 dayes before his coming up for all together to London. The flagges I heare are thus disposed of: Sir John Harman, Admirall of the Blew Squadron; the Earle of Ossory Vice-Admirall of the Redd in his roome; and Sir John Holmes Rere-Admirall of the Blew in his place. The Earle has won immortal fame in the late engagement, noe man in the whole Fleete being so generally spoake of as his Lordshipp. Yesterday was the great wedding of the Countesse of Northumberland and Mr. Montague at Titchfield, but it's much to the dissatisfaction of all her friends. Sir Francis Goodricke dying last weeke here, Sir Robert Carr has begged his office of Temporall Chancellor of Durham for his Vice-Chancellor Sir John Ottway; besides which there is nothing att the Signett but the Incorporation of the Paviers, and Mr. Thomas Aram who had the reversion of the office of Sollicitor in the Court of Appeales in the Excise office after Mr. Bostocke, with the sallery of 200*l.* per an. My Lady Dutchess of Portsmouth's patent has much troubled the people, they reporting it was stopt, because shee was not naturalized, but her denization cleered that point. The people say, Madam Guinn complains she has no house yett, and they will needs have it shee is promised to be Countess of Plymouth as soon as they can see how the people will relish itt; so accordingly it's reported shee is so made, but how farr this motion is gone I cannot learne. My Lord Arlington was this morneing at my Lord Chamberlains; presently after which my Lord Chamberlain answered all people that prest him about business that now my Lord Arlington was possest of the place he would speake to him, and they must apply themselves that way. They say your Excellency must goe to Secretary Coventryes office, and he to my Lords, and that, in order to itt, my Lord Arlington has removed the meeting of the Caball to his own lodgings, where indeed it has been this fortnight. People are extreemly satisfied at his Majestyes choice of your Excellency for that employment. The yesterdayes newes of the besieging of Treves

by the French, filled the Towne with discourses enough, all ending in their wishes his Majesty were off of the league with France, and blame much the makeing of itt. I am in all duty and obedience, and with a perfect resignation, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble servant,

HENRY BALL.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 90.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 25 August, 1673.

I have your Excellency's of the 25th instant, with the enclosed for Sir Robert Carr and my Lady Katherine.

Yesterday about 6 a'clock in the evening the Prince came with his Majesty's Fleet to an ankor in the Gun Fleet, where they may continue some short time, as well to take in provisions and other necessaries as to give the disabled ships time to be refitted. His Highnesse has sent up a scheme of the fight, by which it appears that, our Fleet being drawne out into a line, the Dutch came likewise in a line downe upon us with a large wind; Baukaert came indeed upon the French, but his squadron was much weaker then either of the other two; betweene nine and ten the French tacked and gott the wind, upon which Baukaert came downe with his ships and mingled with de Ruyter's squadron, which was engaged with the Prince, so that after that the whole Dutch Fleet were upon our two squadrons. About noone the Prince and De Ruyter stood downe to relieve the Blew squadron and Tromp who were gott much to seaward, the French, who had the wind, following them at a good distance. About 4 in the afternoone the fight began againe with much fury betweene our two squadrons and the whole Dutch Fleet; the French continueing all this while at a great distance to windward of them all, haveing all the day kept their line, which neither wee nor the enemy did above an hour after the fight began; so that

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had the French bore briskly downe, wee might by the grace of God have obtained a great victory; and this is in every ordinary man's mouth, every seaman's wife haveing an account from her husband of their haveing been betrayed, as they call it, by the French. I have been told by a pretty good hand that when Count D'Estrees came next day on bord the Prince, the seamen were hardly withheld from being rude to him; certaine it is this action has very much exasperated people who did not before love the nation. The Marchants are now very impatient to hear of the arrivall of this great fleet from Ireland, for till they have them here in the river they will not think themselves secure, but perplex themselves with imaginary fears, though there be not the least appearance as yet of any reall danger, nor have they any reason to apprehend any.

The land forces continue still at Yarmouth, though the officers begin to desire that if there be no action intended for them this year that they may remove to their winter quarters.

Upon the death of Sir Edward Sprag the Prince gave, as I hear, the Blew flag to Sir John Harman his Vice-Admirall, and Sir John Holmes is come into the empty place, that is Vice-Admirall or Rear-Admirall to the Blew, for I have been told the Earle of Ossory has desired to continue in his former station, but I am not certaine; all people speak highly of him, though many others behaved themselves with great galantry, and indeed all, of which is a sufficient proof, that about 60 of our men of war, vid^t our two squadrons, so bravely made their party good against 90 of the enemies.

Yesterday was married in the country Mr. Mountague to the Countesse of Northumberland, who hath at last it seems gained her from many pretenders.

I have nothing to add but my prayers for all encrease of honor and happinesse to your Excellency with long health to enjoy them; and to subscribe my selfe, my Lord,

Your Excellency's

most faithfull, obedient, and gratefull servant,

R. YARD.

Earle of Ossory is made Vice-Admirall of the Red Squadron in Sir John Harman's place, and Sir John Holmes comes into his.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 91.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

This inclosed prophesy making a great noise about towne, amongst Dr. Stubbs and the other great witts here, I have procured a copy of itt to lett your Excellency see itt. In some copyes of the booke it's printed *Illustrissimi filii*, but that's so incongruous that it's lookt wholly to be the fault of the impression, but Dr. Stubb sayes in some copyes *Insulanos* is printed *Anglicanos* and then itt alters very much. Wee have divers silly prophesyes now printing, and other little pamphletts, which, as they come out, I shall be sure to send your Excellency. This new French machine to ride on, and all other exercises being much frequented, an accident has quite blasted them again, for last weeke as a man was rideing at the ring and firing his pistoll, he shoots a woman that was lookeing over the wall, and, as it was thought, had killed her, upon which two of the French men were seized on, and committed to New Gate for the fact; the others fledd into the French Ambassador's house, and there had like to have been a stirr about itt, the people in the streets saying they might stone him, he harboured rogues to kill them, but as yett there is nothing further done about it, more than that the woman being not dead, but only has lost her eye, they press my Lord Chamberlain's leave to give in security for their answering itt at the next sessions, which is readily granted them. This morning my Lord Clifford went into the countrey and they say 'tis for all together, and that my Lord Duke of Lauderdale will also be going to Scotland very speedily, all indeavouring to retire before the

Parliament meete; and my Lord Sunderland is not yet come hither, nor Sir Peter Wyche gone from Paris, wanting his money. My Lady O'Bryan is very well and all that family; more than which I have not to trouble your Excellency with now, but that I am, with all respect and duty, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencies most humble and obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

Whitehall, August 25th, 1673, 11 at night.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 92.—FROM JAMES VERNON.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 29 August.

I have received your Excellencies of the 18th instant. I have in obedience to your commands writt to Sir Peter Wych for the account of the mony he received. My brother is gone to Boughton with Mr. Montagu and his lady; they will be in towne the next weeke. The day after they were married the Countesse Dowager sent a gentleman with a letter to Titchfield to claime the little Lady Betty. On last Tuesday my Lord Duke¹ asked the King leave to go to sea, who readily consented, and told him he should have the command of the Swiftsure a third-rate fregate, Captain Ruthes, Commander, and accordingly wee were all commanded to be in a readyness against next Monday. But this day after a Counsell his Grace sent order to stop the preparations till further notice, ther being no certernty as yet of his going. I returne your Excellency my most humble acknowledgements for allowing me the liberty of the Paper Office. My Lord Arlington's office is so well kept by some that present authority there since your leaving it, that I fear I cannot appear there without offense. My Lord Arlington was

¹ The Duke of Monmouth.

pleased to send for me the other day to tell me that hee understood from his Grace how well hee was satisfied with my services, which his Lordshipp was pleased to expresse his generous sense of, and to encourage me to the continuance of my duty. I am in all duty, my Lord,

Your Excellencies

most obedient and most faithfull servant,

J. VERNON.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 93.—FROM WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

My Lord,

Whitehall, August 29th, '73.

Last post day upon the coming in of the Fleet into the Gun Fleet the mailes were stopt, and therefore I did not trouble your Excellency then; since, I have spoken to Mr. Bartie, who tells mee now my Lord Treasurer is come abroad againe, and so well as to doe businesse, he will put the payment of your bill of extraordinaries into a way of dispatch, and supposes it will admitt of no difficulty; however I will call upon him to minde him of it, the rather because I doe not see any body sollicite that concerne of your Excellency.

Prince Rupert came to towne on Wednesday night last and *complaines¹ much of the behaviour of the French in the late engagement, but seems to blame principally, if not onely, the C. d'Estrees, in which he is seconded by Monsieur Martel, Rear-admirall of the French, nor doe we agree among ourselves, the commanders complaineing one of the other and even accusing one another,* and, though this matter occasions various discourses here, I cannot tell you of any certaine resolutions the King has taken in this matter, though I am

¹ The words printed in italics are in cipher in the original.

told the King should say *he would have it examined thoroughly. The great shippes are to be laid up for this summer and as many as are in a condition to keep the sea are to goe out with all speed.* The Duke of Monmouth has desired the King's leave to goe in the Fleet, which the King haveing consented to, he has given him the command of the Swiftsure, a new third-rate, commanded by Captaine Rooth, who stays with the Duke.

I am with all respect and truth, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithful and most humble servant,

WM. BRIDGEMAN.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 94.—FROM HENRY BALL.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, August 29, 1673.

The great surprize and trouble our East Indya Company have been in these 3 dayes upon an advice of Tromp's sayling with 20 frigatts to rescue their East Indya ships, has caused the Councell to meete often at my Lord's lodgings in the Court. What they have resolved on is not said, but this day Mr. Page and some others of them were sent for by the Lords about it, the marchants having some letters from Kent that said there was a squadron of 30 ships appeared off of the Goodwin Sands and they feared them the Dutch going to Kinsale, but Prince Rupert would not believe them, and sayd as the wind stood now and had mostly all this weeke directly S.W., they could not make through the channell safely, and, if they could not doe that, he was sure they were too cautious to run where they could not be secure; his Majesty was upon the first suspision of their going much troubled, knowing that Kinsale could not secure them as they were so many and the men of warr not halfe manned or gun'd and their best men sicke, no fort of any force, nor

any militia ready; but what was the forcablest reason of the feare, was that they would be surprized and consequently be ashoare and neglectfull, our orders going to have them sayle to Plymouth; but the next night after the arrivall of the newes, and then ordering them (if the messenger came time enough) to sett sayle from thence directly to Plymouth the 25th instant, which if they did so, then the merchants are out of their feares. They blame much the want of the stop to the Dutch post the last Fryday, when the newes came in, and Mr. Page told me they desired itt, but it could not be gott, which probably might have kept the advice from them some few dayes. If they loose these ships the Company say they can never hold up their heads againe, and they say his Majesty, besides his own three prize ships, will loose 80,000*l.* in customes from the marchants, but I hope, since our letters from Deale mentioning nothing of the appearance of any enemy, that these reports and feares may prove vaine. The seamen have been cherisht with the hope of their pay from these prizes, and that is no small benefitt, at this time, when our men, as the Dutch say, want their usuall manly courage.

On Wednesday night came up from the Fleete his Highness Prince Rupert, the Earle of Ossory, and divers principall commanders. All that night and the next the bells and trumpetts welcomed his Highness, and he was received with the greatest dearness possible as well from the King as people; his Highness, they say, went next day to make his visitt to the French Ambassador to give him account of the fight, and so from thence to the Chancellor's, Treasurer's, etc., and all people say his Highness concurred in the generall report that the French did not their duty, and Captain Barout sayes privately they did not, he thinkes, absolutely run away, but 'twas so like it, that he knows not how to call it else; he has enough of sea affaires and sayes he will goe no more. This fresh talke make the people add that the two fleetes can never be brought to fight againe with the Dutch, the common seamen in both being so angry with each other, and speakeing so opprobriously of their

actions; and they say, his Majesty complaining of his being ill served, the Duke of Monmouth presented himself as a suitor to his Majesty to goe to sea, which his Majesty readily consented to, and has given him the Swifshire to command, so that his Grace is preparing to be ready, for it's reported the Fleete shall goe out againe on Monday or Tuesday next, and that the Prince goes againe, but it's thought too late for any action this summer. This day here is a talke that the Dutch Fleete appeare againe on our coast according to their custome upon our coming in. This weeke dyed both the Earles of Warwicke and Stamford, the first leaving almost 4,000*l.* per annum to the Earle of Manchester, his sister's son, and the rest to the Earle of Holland; my Lord Stamford all his to his grandson my young Lord Grey.¹ Last weeke was maryed here my Lord Herbert of Cherbery to my Lord Chandos his daughter, a great beauty of 10,000*l.* portion. My Lady Northumberland's marriage pleases not my old Lady Dowager, who sent this weeke for the young lady, according to her son's will, to breed her. Sir Edward Spragg's body is to be brought to towne to-morrow, and to be interred at his Majestyes charge and all the heralds to attend itt, as they did at his predecessor the Earle of Sandwich. At the Signett has only happened these few things, viz^t, a grant to Tho: Oughton and Charles Tucker senior and his son, publique notaryes, the office of principal Register and Clerke of the Ecclesiasticall and Admiralty Courts of Delegates successively for their lives in reversion after John Oldbury who now holds it. A warrant to pay to Mr. W^m Perwick his Majestyes agent imployed about negotiating certain affaires at Paris, the summe of 40*s.* per diem for his entertainment, to commence from the 25th of March last, besides all allowances for intelligence, etc.

Richard Earle of Arran made Baron Butler of Weston in Hunting-

¹ The son of Thomas, Lord Grey, the Earl of Stamford's eldest son, who had died in 1667. This new Earl of Stamford was a strong opponent of James II., and a favourer of Monmouth's rebellion, and was befriended by William III.

tonshire, to him and his heires males. A grant to Collonell Francis Windham and the heires of his body [of] the yearly rent or summe of 600*l.*, payable halfe-yearly out of the Excise, to commence from Christmas last, with a provisos that if at any time hereafter his Majesty, heires, or successors, shall settle upon him and the heires of his body lands or tennements of the said yearly value, or shall pay him £10,800 at one payment, this pention to cease, etc.

To-morrow the ship Papenbourgh is to be delivered into the hands of the East Indya Company to be sold for his Majestye, out of which the prize officers hope to have a year or halfe a year's sallary, in which your Excellency being concerned I thought it not improper to acquaint you with, that you may order the receite thereof when the order is drawn, of which I shall presume to give you advice.

There are they say 4 fellows in New Gate, that were taken on Saturday night last lurkeing about his Royal Highnesses lodgings at St. James, and in their pocketts all the implements for forceing lockes, etc., and they say there was as many more not yet taken, that had a designe to robb his Royall Highnesses lodgings, which causes a report amongst the commonalty that his Royall Highness was sett upon by 4 parsons.

Every one joyes Mr. Richards now of his new office of Secretary to my Lord Chamberlain, which they say he is promised to be, and my Lord Chamberlain answers all people now that he is leaving the place and that they must apply themselves to my Lord.

Just now came an express from the Fleete, but I heare brings nothing of the appearance of any Dutch ships, so that our hearts are att rest as to the Fleete at Kinsale, which it's hoped may be ere this arrived safe at Plymouth. This night people discourse as if the Prince was not to goe to sea againe, the French and he being not able to agree, and they will have itt that the Duke of Monmouth shall goe in Sir John Harman's ship, and have the titular honor of Commander in Cheife, but be wholly directed by him, which seemes too improbable to be believed. The talke is great still of my Lady Dutchess of Portesmouth having begged some thousands

out of the Papenbourgh; but now they say 'tis but as much as will purchase Clarendon House, which his Majesty is buying for her.

Every one dreads the meeting of this Parliament, and feare our enmity to the French may breed ill blood among them, for all people will have it that wee must breake off our league with them, or suffer our selves to be ruined, but I dare not write halfe what is spoken in publique in every coffee-house. Captain Stöckmann and Merryweather, said to be killed in the fight, are come safe to towne alive. The inclosed I had in command from my Lady O'Bryan. I am in all duty, may it please your Excellency,

Your Excellencyes most obedient servant,

HENRY BALL.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 95.—FROM ROBERT YARD.

May it please your Excellency,

Whitehall, 29 August, 1673.

I have your Excellency's of the 29. instant, with the enclosed for my Lady Katherine, Mr. Oldenburgh, and Mr. Vernon. Wednesday night last his Highnesse arrived here from the Fleet, which he left at the buoy of the Nore; the next morneing he went to visitt the French Ambassador, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, &c., and is said to have publickly declared to them that the French did not assist him; this makes the Towne talke the louder, and admire the Prince the more, which they doe to that degree that it would be impossible for him to doe amisse so long as he opposes the French, or at least that they think he does. I am unwilling to write your Excellency any thing of this nature, but that your Excellency is pleased to command it, and therefore I hope I may without offence add that the dissatisfaction is so great at this conjunction with the French, that the generall speech in the City and that amongst the soberest and chiefest persons is that unlesse this alliance with France be broken the nation will be ruined, and that

which at present troubles them the most is, that our Government hath entertained such kind thoughts of them, that they are not able to see their carriage towards us, but are ready on all occasions to take their part, even against our selves. Upon the Exchange they say, that here at Court they side with D'Estrees against the Prince, a thing they can by no means endure; others complaine that there is a faction in the Fleet, which they say is made by his¹ to stayne the actions of the Prince, of which Sir Edward Sprag was counted one, though it is strang that men should be so ignorant of the great worth and honor of his as to think him capable of such contrivance, and certainly he deserves better of them; but this is a subject unfitt for my pen, I must therefore leave it, and beg your Excellency's pardon that I dare not repeat what others discourse with the greatest freedome and liberty imaginable.

Wee were two days since very much allarmed with a report that Tromp was gone through the Channell with ten men of warr and as many fire-ships, to endeavour to destroy the great fleet of marchantmen in Ireland; but since wee have been convinced of the improbability of it, the winds haveing been so contrary, that that would hinder their passing the Channell, had they had any such designe. But wee believe that Tromp, who sailed the 22. instant from the Dutch Fleet, is rather gone norward to look for their East India ships, which they did not then know were fallen into our hands.

The Duke of Monmouth is prepareing himselfe to goe to sea in the Swiftsure; people look upon it only as a preparatory for a generall command of his Majesty's navall forces, if there be occasion; in the mean time he is, as I am assured, to goe out with a good squadron to fetch home the Fleet of Marchantmen, who, according to the letters wee have this day from Kinsale, intended to saile from thence the 20. of this month, so that wee are now in hourly expectation to hear of their arrivall in the West of England, which will be joyfull news to the Marchants, this being the richest fleet that ever came to England togeather. The beginning of the next

¹ *Royal Highness* are, probably, the words omitted: the Duke of York.

week the Prince and the Duke of Monmouth goe down to the Fleet, which wee hope to see at sea againe in few days after, though many people are of opinion that the great ships will goe out no more, and especially if a squadron saile to the westward, which will so much weaken the Fleet as to make them incapable of goeing out againe to face the enemy, if they have their Fleet entire. There is a report about Towne, though with what ground I know not, that the Earle of Ossory will come home with intentions of goeing no more to sea; and truely there be many that would be glad they might doe so, for, to speak the truth, the seamen are extreamey disheartned, and all because of the French, for it is confessed by all that never men behaved them selves better than our ships did in this last fight, and that after so much courage and undaunted resolution they should come off no better, and that because of false friends, breaks their hearts. I must againe beg your Excellency's pardon that I thus, according to your Excellency's commands, give your Excellency the naked discourses of the Towne, to which I am so farr from adding that I dare not write all I hear. I am, with all respect and humility, my Lord,

Your Excellency's most faithfull

and most obedient humble servant,

R. YARD.

R Sept. 4.

NO. 96.—FROM SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

My Lords,

Spring Garden, 31 Aug^r. 1673.

I have this good while wanted something worth of your Ex^{cy} trouble and am still in the same distresse, observing nothing that my particular industry could contribute to the generall informations.

The present great paine wee are in is for the safe arrivall of our shippes, which were uppon the 22. inst. still within the harbour of Kinsale. We hope the winds have prevented any designe of our

enemies that way, and we are ready to turne out within a few dayes a considerable squadron of our frigotts to make all sure. 'Tis highly worth our care to looke after soe important a stake, for perhaps twelve East India ships were never togeather in any port before. There are, besides, 36 sayle of Barbados men and six men of warre, with a fire-ship; but the four of them which came from S^{ta} Helena under Capt. Munden had so many sick men on board, and did soe much suspect their security, not onely in adventuring to sea, but even in the port that is unfortyfyed, if the enemy should come and boldly attempt them by fire-ships, that they have beene in great distresse what resolutions to take, and this has beene the reason that, altho' the winds have beene very good, yet they have not moved from the place.

But our generall concerne is touching the event of your Ex^{tes} great labours in your place, and wheather this East India losse may not have afforded our enemies some advice.

We seeme to apprehend the march and resolutions of the Germans, and that the first stroke will infallibly draw a declaration of warr from Spaine, and then the raynes are broke loose. But in this case alsoe we talke that Spaine will leave us a roome in their favour if we will accept it, and if you heard at what a rate of indignation the Towne talkes to the disadvantage of the French, some on the point of cowardise, and others of treachery, you would think our enemies had calculated their matters accordingly. But as the French and some few their abettors doe boldly recriminate, soe 'tis apparent that even amongst our selves there have beene great animosityes, and the consequences thereof appeared too much in the worke of the last engagement.

But lett me particularly mention that of my good Lord Ossory every man's relation is the same, that he fought like a true English heroe, and the R. Prince had certainly beene burnt or towed away by the enemy, if he had not beene resolved to dye first by her syde.

Since Mr. Mountegue was in possession of his bright purchase the old lady has sent for the child, but was answered in the negative,

and preparations are making to assert this refusall, and the Towne has already disposed her to my Lord George and made the mother a Dutchesse.

My Lord Treasurer is now fixt at Wallingford House, and returned againe to a reasonable good state of health. I am, with all imaginable respect, my Lord,

Your Ex^{tes} most affectionate and most obedyent servant,

ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

R 1^o/₁₀ Sept.

END OF VOL. I.

WESTMINSTER:
PRINTED BY NICHOLS AND SONS,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.



